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There's no way up the pay scale without unions

BY PETER S. MOORE

Good opportunities for low-skill workers in Canada are harder to find, said Judith Maxwell, in "No Way Up The Pay Scale," a recent opinion article published in Canada's *The Globe & Mail* newspaper. Maxwell, the presidential guru of the government-funded think tank, Canadian Policy Research Networks, provides a good picture of the death of the well-paid, low-skill job in Canada which affects two million Canadian workers.

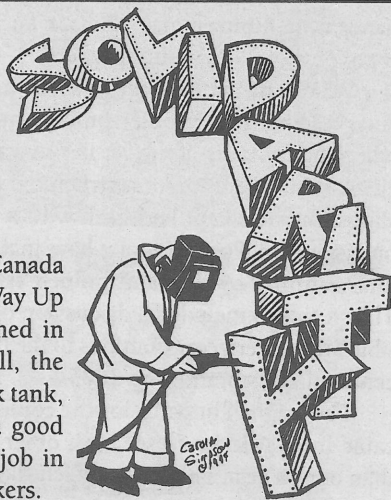
She says workers in these jobs are not just high school drop-outs, teenage workers, loners and second earners. Most of these workers are women, one-third have a post-secondary diploma, half are over 35 years old and one-third are the sole earners in the family. To make things worse, jobs are now just jobs; employers don't provide career ladders for these workers to ascend.

"Most people who work in this job ghetto are hired for what they can do today, not for what they might be able to do in 20 years," said Maxwell. As a result, workers find themselves earning \$10 or less per hour for the rest of their lives, too poor to afford the education necessary to escape the wage ghetto she describes. Even government programs now claw back benefits, pulling workers further down the steps out of poverty. "A low-paid worker... faces high barriers to acquire new skills. In effect, the policy cards are stacked against exit from low-paid work," she concludes.

She suggests five solutions, not one of which provides workers with any power to solve the problem themselves. She suggests three warmed-over American "solutions" – an earned income tax credit, living wage requirements, and individual development accounts. An earned income tax credit in the United States pays a lump sum to families with children which earn less than \$10,000. A living wage "puts the onus on the private sector to pay reasonable wages if employers wish to bid on government contracts" (see sidebar for Canadian minimum wages). An individual development account is a savings scheme that has the government match an individual's savings if the money is used for a specific goal, such as education or home ownership.

The Canadian ideas are lukewarm, too: a Canada child tax benefit and wage supplements. A Canada child tax benefit would apply to families with children who earn less than \$22,400, to the tune of \$2,440 per child. The more a family earns, the less the tax discount for the child. Wage supplements would add from \$3,000 to \$7,000 to a family's income for people who had received social assistance for more than one year.

While these ideas are interesting, they amount to government policy tinkering. The true problem is the capitalist system's uncanny ability to distribute wealth without giving inequality a second thought. Maxwell's proposals *continued on page 8*



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From lock-out to lock-in Bush gives dock bosses a helping hand

BY JON BEKKEN AND
BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

As we go to press, West Coast longshoremen are working under a Taft-Hartley injunction set to expire Dec. 26. The injunction was granted Oct. 8, replacing a 10-day lock-out of dock workers with what many workers are calling a "lock-in," forcing longshoremen to work through the busiest shipping season on the bosses' terms.

"The situation is now very grave," said International Longshore and Warehouse Union member Robert Irminger. "If the longshore workers insist on working safely under the provisions of the union's safety code, they risk being fined or even fired."

"The PMA has brought the government in," Irminger added, "which was their intention all along. This is the same government that said they would militarize the docks if the ILWU were to strike for a better contract. We can expect the government and the courts to do the employers' bidding."

ILWU officials share this concern. "We expect the employers will be dragging us to court daily, trying to bankrupt the union and throw our leaders in jail," ILWU President James Spinosa said.

An army of superintendents is running the docks trying to lay the groundwork for such actions, ILWU Communications Director Steve Stallone told the *Industrial Worker*. "What they're after is to try to bust the union in one fashion or another."

Under the terms of the 80-day injunction, the ILWU can be faced with contempt charges, leaders jailed, and members fined if they engage in any industrial action. U.S.

District Judge William Alsup's order requires the union to ensure that "work in the maritime industry [resumes] at a normal and reasonable rate of speed."

"The employers got what they wanted – the ports will be reopened," Richard Mead, president of the longshoremen's local in the San Francisco area, told the *New York Times*. "We now have a new dock boss. His name is George W. Bush."

The Pacific Maritime Association, an employer organization that represents 79 dock operators, had locked out 10,500 dock workers claiming a slow-down was in force. The ILWU denied there was a slow-down, but said workers were working carefully since the docks were overcrowded. Added congestion has made working on the docks like working "in the middle of a freeway," according to ILWU spokesman Tom Price. Five workers have been killed in the last six months due to unsafe conditions.

The injunction covers 29 ports in California, Oregon and Washington. ILWU dock workers in Alaska, British Columbia and Hawaii work under separate contracts, as do dock workers on the Eastern and Gulf Coasts and the Great Lakes represented by the ILA. Separate contracts meant that cruise passenger ships and ships carrying military cargo were only briefly affected by the lock-out.

Loading war cargo

A ship carrying military cargo was the first vessel to go to sea during the lock-out. After three days of effort, the ILWU persuaded the PMA to allow longshore workers to go back to work to get the ship under way.

continued on page 6

Boston janitors strike shows limits of appeals for justice

BY JON BEKKEN

Hundreds of striking janitors and their supporters march through the streets of downtown Boston every afternoon, tying up rush hour traffic and keeping their struggle in the public eye.

As many as 2,000 janitors are on strike against 75 or so office complexes in Boston and its suburbs, in a rolling strike aimed at winning health benefits and pay hikes from the 30-member Maintenance Contractors of New England association.

Service Employees Intl. Union Local 254 represents about 10,700 janitors in the Boston area, the vast majority of whom work part-time shifts without benefits. Janitors must work 29 hours a week to qualify for benefits. While union contractors in most major cities offer full-time jobs with benefits, SEIU 254 was long notorious in Boston labor circles for its sweetheart deals. The International took the local over last year.

While the strike has drawn the support of major political and religious figures, and even of some corporate executives, the contractors insist it has had little impact on their operations. SEIU delayed the start of the strike for a month while city officials tried to mediate, and then struck a handful of the association's 1,500 buildings Sept. 30. Contractors used the delay to recruit scabs, many of whom are being offered the full-time shifts the strikers have been demanding.

The contractors association is led by Unico, the biggest cleaning contractor in the area with 5,500 janitors and the target of an SEIU campaign pressuring building owners to cancel its contracts and transfer the work

to one of the contractors that have settled with the union.

SEIU has reached an interim agreement with six companies, which employ about 2,000 janitors. Under the deal, janitors would be eligible for health benefits after working 27.5 hours a week, a change that would only slightly increase the number receiving benefits. The firms also agreed to establish a system to enable janitors to move into full-time positions. However, negotiations with Unico and the association are stalled, and the company insists the strike is not disrupting its operations.

While scores of supporters have been arrested in symbolic actions (in one arrest staged for TV cameras Oct. 10, supporters were arrested for "blocking" an intersection surrounded by hundreds of strikers; police made no attempt to clear the intersection which only began to clear 30 minutes later), and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been collected for strike relief, there has been no effort to shut down the struck buildings.

Despite the massive marches wending through the Boston streets, picket lines are up at only a handful of the struck buildings and the union has chosen to block the streets, not the job. Construction and delivery workers have honored the janitors' picket lines where they encountered them, but – aside from Unico's corporate offices, where a small but steady strike presence has been maintained – picketing is sporadic.

The strike has drawn an outpouring of public support, but ultimately the union will need to rely on more than moral force to bring the contractors to the table.

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Act against war, intolerance

I am disturbed by our present situation in the Middle East. International peace contracts are never binding and are broken whenever convenient to one nation or another. The diverse religions are only the pawns of power-hungry elites, bordering on insanity.

Dr. L.L. Zamenhof, the creator of the universal language Esperanto, a Jewish medical doctor and linguist, was once an ardent member of the Zionist movement. But when he was approached in 1914 to sign a petition in favor of the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, he refused. He wrote that though he felt strongly his people's desire for a safe haven, he nevertheless believed that any national state is irrational and therefore he distanced himself from the Zionist movement. Humanity must be willing to accept one universal culture, free of hatred toward other people's belief system, as long that belief is not hurtful to others.

I can imagine now that most of you may have a smile on your faces and say to yourself that this way of thinking is naive, absurd or even moronic; maybe I am all of these titles combined in your eyes, but I have thought about and learned from a few others that my way of thinking is the beginning of a solution of avoiding an unnecessary war in which young children whom we pretend to love, cannot look to a brighter future. The IWW and world socialism must get involved, otherwise why should we call ourselves the Industrial Workers of the World?

Our paper should bring a front page appeal to all the people in the Middle East and the Americas, as well as the countries of Europe, followers of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, to disregard all customs and traditions that are irrational and hurtful to other religions, nations and their people and cre-

ate a new culture freely accepted by all the parties concerned. For a beginning, Esperanto should be adopted as a means of communication and all literature printed in Esperanto. You may think it absurd to adopt Esperanto when English is becoming the international language. As English is a national language, it suggests that English is superior to other national tongues. Esperanto is a scientifically constructed language, it is non-national, neutral.

My wife and I watched a movie a few days ago about a young boy whose father was a nuclear missile-carrying jet pilot. The boys' class went on a conducted tour of a bunker housing a long-range nuclear missile to be shot at Russia in case of war. It was explained to these children that one of these missiles could destroy the state of New York. The boy figured that the Russians must have missiles just as powerful and understood that something had to be done to get these killing machines dismantled. He was the prime baseball figure in his school team. When the next game began, he refused to play again as long as there were atomic weapons. His refusal hit the front pages of the newspapers, and soon famous athletes and children all around the world joined in and they succeeded in getting all nuclear weapons dismantled.

We, the IWW, a revolutionary anarcho-syndicalist workers union worldwide, should set an example and learn Esperanto. Go to my page (www.geocities.com/Kuhljp/) to read the essay on non-nationalism in English or Esperanto and use the Esperanto lessons there and let me know if you need any help.

Jurgen P. Kuhl

Crime a serious problem

While I am sure C.C. Redcloud did not mean to belittle the suffering of "street crime" victims, he may have left this impression by his comparison between street criminals and corporate criminals (whether in the legal or moral sense). Crime victims seem to be one group of suffering people often neglected by

the left, and often revictimized in the court system.

Let's not belittle the fears of mugging victims, many of whom won't leave their apartments after the incident. Let's not be insensitive to people robbed at gun- or knife-point. Victims are often African-American, elderly, handicapped and women. People from poor neighborhoods who commit crimes against their neighbors are not radicals or activists, but class parasites. Let's not forget that IWW organizer Carlo Tresca was murdered by an organized crime godfather.

Raymond Solomon
editor, *Free Voices*

Upper Midwest Wobbly gathering

BY X348111, WINNIPEG

Wobs gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for the fourth annual Upper Mid-West Regional Organizing Conference July 12-14. The UPMIDROC has taken place every spring or summer for the past four years, as a space where people from the same region can gather to discuss issues, make plans and sing songs. This year's gathering was small but well represented, with Wobs in attendance from Minneapolis, Madison and Chicago, plus the local Winnipeggers.

We use the gathering as a space to visit and get to know each other, brainstorm, and talk about what is going on in our various cities. While there are some structured workshops, they are kept laid-back with a focus on discussion. Popular topics have included: dual carding, co-ops, and branch reports. This year also included a discussion of possible Midwestern contributions to the IWW's centennial celebrations in 2005.

The original impetus for the conference came from a desire to see each other more than once a year. People rarely felt like they got to do everything they want at General Assembly. GA exists to do the formal business of the union, but we were looking for opportunities for more informal discussions. It also lets people exchange ideas freely and build solidarity through the friendships that

grow out of the gathering.

While the gathering is called specifically for the Midwest, there are others who attend, from as far away as Vancouver and Detroit. It is open to anyone, though we always encourage people to start their own.

The UPMIDROC rotates locations each year. This year's was in Winnipeg, while last year's was at the Peck Farm outside of Minneapolis. Previous gatherings were in Minneapolis proper and Madison, with next year's scheduled for June in Milwaukee.

The UPMIDROC has proved a useful tool for Wobs in the Midwest and we will continue to gather annually to share stories, tips, plans, songs and fun. In the coming years we plan to hold Organizer Trainings with the conference so that we can further build the union as we all become organizers. We encourage Wobs from other regions to attend or better yet to plan gatherings of their own, as every region has unique needs and interests.

Hull IWW Branch off to solid start

The Hull (UK) General Membership Branch has been active representing existing members in disciplinary hearings and supporting other workers in disputes, including local council employees.

They have also done factory gate leaflettings informing unrepresented workers of their rights (and making useful contacts), and established an advice service for casual, mainly foreign, workers in the city.

In line with our status as an international union, Hull members have also organised demonstrations in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and are involved in a support group for asylum seekers.

They are currently trying to produce a modern and forward-looking IWW video that will appeal to younger workers. The message of the importance *unionism* has been lost on younger workers, as the traditional trade union system was long dead before many of them were even born.

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The Voice of Revolutionary
Industrial Unionism

- ★ ORGANIZATION
- ★ EDUCATION
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Under Our Feet and Above Our Heads

TERRA E TETO

The Movement for Land and Roof



Terra E Teto is a collaboration of two activists – an artist from Philadelphia, and an organizer from São Paulo, Brazil – touring the eastern U.S. in November.

The project is offering presentations ranging from videos about massive direct-action movements run by collectives of rural and urban workers, to workshops about grassroots strategies for confronting multinational trade agreements, to a performance illustrating the similarities and differences between two gigantic nations and what they have to share with one another.

Upstate NY Wobs picket Starbucks

BY SOURDOUGH SLIM

The Upstate NY General Membership Branch is continuing regular pickets supporting the “unstrike” of 12 unionized Starbucks shops in Vancouver, B.C. Wobblies converged on the busy Wolf Road shopping district outside Albany with flyers and picket signs to inform coffee drinkers and passing traffic that Starbucks must bargain fairly with the Vancouver workers organized in the Canadian Auto Workers.

A flyer generated from the CAW web site also told of pus-laden milk used in some of Starbucks’ coffee drinks, the side effects of the artificial growth hormone BGH. The chemical makes cows give more milk, but at what cost? A corrupted FDA approval process rushed BGH to market without proper testing. Cows treated with it frequently develop udder infections. Some of them stop producing milk sooner and many are dying younger after regular treatments with the hormone. Imagine what its residues could be doing to human consumers.

IWW pickets arrived and decided to make an in-store visit to let workers at this Starbucks location know what would be going on outside. A committee of three entered the busy coffee shop and approached the counter. FW Nick Patti explained the nature of the IWW presence to a flabbergasted trio of workers. They were assured there was no onus on them, and that the IWW was there to address Starbucks management’s union-busting stance. Still, one young woman, likely the shift supervisor, dashed for the phone to summon local police.

Back outside, after a brief picket at the storefront, Wobs hit the street and strip mall entrance. Then a police patrol car approached the site. After a short talk with Starbucks workers, the lone cop visited the picket line. The female officer said she was “union, too,” and had no problem with the informational picket. She wanted to make sure we exercised caution for our safety’s sake. Pickets were set up on both sides of the traffic-choked thoroughfare. Public response was mostly positive.

The Upstate IWW has scheduled further Starbucks actions and is also busy with the Major League Baseball anti-sweatshop campaign. A new assessment stamp to raise funds for the campaign is in the works. Stay tuned.

Terra E Teto employs art and theater techniques from the international “puppetista” movement and influenced by Brazil’s “mística” used by the MST (Landless Workers’ Movement) to illustrate the parallel histories of the United States and Brazil.

From colonization and slavery, independence and abolition, through tenuous military regimes to neoliberalism and the impending Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement, Terra E Teto employs illustrated Portuguese lessons, toy theater, physical interaction and puppetry to create a landscape of ideas that engage audiences into finding answers: Why is one nation building a military space launching station in the rainforest, causing an outcry of resistance from thousands of indigenous families in the other? How can the general public in one nation remain barely aware of the free trade agreement their president is trying to pass, while 12 million people in the other nation turn out to vote it down? Why does one nation boast the biggest population of incarcerated citizens on earth, while the other lays claim to the largest successful contemporary social movement, with more than one million people living on seized farmlands or in abandoned buildings, taking direct action to demand agrarian and urban reform? Land and Roof – Terra e Teto – may provide some inspiring insight.

Terra E Teto are also offering workshops on topics such as: cultural imperialism, the globalization of everyday life, landless and homeless workers’ movements in Brazil, Puppetista – an international movement of reality-shaping art, etc. Some of these workshops can be accompanied by a video. Videos available include: Raiz Forte (Strong Roots): The Landless Workers’ Movement of Brazil; Anita Garibaldi: Homeless Workers’ Encampment in São Paulo; and A20: Urban Action Against the FTAA.

Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, “A fair day’s wage for a fair day’s work,” we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, “Abolition of the wage system.”

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Seattle IU 660 wins IWW contract

BY X337969, IU 660, SEATTLE

Cooperation between dual carders in UFCW and rank-and-file organizing at a grocery co-op in Seattle over the last 18 months has culminated in victories for workers in both the IWW and UFCW. At the time of this writing, the IWW and Madison Market have agreed to 99% of the terms of the contract, which includes substantial raises (4% and 5%), health care for kids and partners, a grievance procedure, and job security provisions for the administrative workers.

Rank-and-file organizing in the UFCW bargaining unit covering the clerks, grocery and deli workers also won these demands, in addition to shift bidding based on seniority (unheard of in the industry). Two top managers have “left” because of the pressure from workers.

Madison Market has over 70 employees, and is a typical modern consumer-owned co-op, overseen by an elected board of trustees and using a traditional hierarchal method of management for the workers – democracy for the consumers and not the workers.

The performers are Brazilian cultural/media activist Frederico Freitas, who has toured Europe and Latin America, and U.S. puppetista Morgan Andrews. The tour is co-sponsored by the IWW International Solidarity Commission. For details about a particular date and venue, or to help publicize the event in your area, please contact IWW headquarters at 215-222-1905.

Tour Dates: Nov. 1 - Haverford PA, Nov. 2/3 - Philadelphia, Nov. 4 - Rutgers, Camden Campus, Nov. 5 - Univ. of Connecticut, Nov. 6/7 - Amherst MA, Nov. 8 - Bennington VT, Nov. 9 - Boston, Nov. 10 - Providence, Nov. 11 - New York City, Nov. 12 - Baltimore, Nov. 13 - Washington DC, Nov. 14/15 - Richmond VA, Nov. 16 - Chapel Hill NC, Nov. 17 - Carboro NC, Nov. 18 - Durham NC, Nov. 19 - Greensboro NC, Nov. 20 - Charleston SC, Nov. 21 - Savannah GA, Nov. 22 - Gainesville FL, Nov. 23 - Orlando FL, Nov. 24 - West Palm FL, Nov. 25 - Miami.

Join the IWW Today

The IWW is a union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries and in our communities both to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers ourselves to meet the needs of the entire population, not merely a handful of exploiters.

We are the Industrial Workers of the World because we organize industrially – that is to say, we organize all workers on the job into one union, rather than dividing workers by trade, so that we can pool our strength to fight the bosses together.

Since the IWW was founded in 1905, we have recognized the need to build a truly international union movement in order to confront the global power of the bosses and in order to strengthen workers’ ability to stand in solidarity with our fellow workers no matter what part of the globe they happen to live on.

We are a union open to all workers, whether or not the IWW happens to have representation rights in your workplace. We organize the worker, not the job, recognizing that unionism is not about government certification or employer recognition but about workers coming together to address our common concerns. Sometimes this means striking or signing a contract. Sometimes it means refusing to work with an unsafe machine or following the bosses’ orders so literally that nothing gets done. Sometimes it means agitating around particular issues or grievances in a specific workplace, or across an industry.

Because the IWW is a democratic, member-run union, decisions about what issues to address and what tactics to pursue are made by the workers directly involved.

TO JOIN: Mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and your first month’s dues to: IWW, Post Office Box 13476, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Initiation is the same as one month’s dues. Our dues are calculated according to your income. If your monthly income is under \$1,000, dues are \$6 a month. If your monthly income is between \$1,000 - \$2,000, dues are \$12 a month. If your monthly income is over \$2,000 a month, dues are \$18 a month.

- ☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer
- ☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution
- ☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker.



Praise Bosses

by F.N. Brill

For decades, each November, the *Industrial Worker* has carried stories of the martyrs of the IWW. The Wobblies who were killed, maimed or imprisoned by the bosses. "In November we remember." Why? Because it affects your life directly. Because those who don't remember the past are doomed to repeat it. Because you want to win the One Big Union. Remembering isn't just having pictures of Joe Hill, Frank Little and Wesley Everest up in the union hall. That's not remembering at all. It is trying to remember or discover our past in order not to make the same mistakes. And we did make plenty...

★ ★ ★

So I would like to remember an IWW I knew as a young Wobbly. He isn't a "big" name, but recently I learned a bit more about him and what he went through being a Wobbly. I realized how important he was to my growth as a Wob. Sometimes I simply take inspiration from his being dedicated to a cause that seemed dead for so long. He sacrificed much to keep the IWW alive so we could rebuild it. I would like to remember Elmer Anderson. I first met him in 1979.



He lived several blocks from where I grew up, but I hadn't met him as a kid. Born in 1900, he had first joined the IWW in 1914 when he left home. Elmer had been a timber faller, a lumberjack. He wasn't very tall but was very burly. Still strong and very fast. I would have to run to keep up with him when we walked to visit another shut-in Wobbly. I recently came across Elmer's name in the new book, *Harvest Wobblies*.

Evidently, Elmer had been one of the Sacramento defendants. During the repression of the US IWW there were three separate federal trials. The famous Chicago trial was for the national officers and east coast organizers. Another trial for the mid-west was held in Wichita. The west coast trial was held in Sacramento, CA. Elmer was accused of being a member of an IWW "arson gang" who set barns, canneries and haystacks alight throughout California (or so prosecutors claimed; no credible evidence of such fires was ever produced). He was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in Leavenworth. He would have been 18 years old. Evidently two Wobblies had turned state's evidence and were used to incriminate everyone the Feds wanted. Elmer never told me about his time in Leavenworth. But he told me about what he considered the worst thing to ever happen to the IWW. He told me that was the union's split in 1924. Elmer was a 120 and had followed Jimmy Rowan in forming the Emergency Program at the 1924 convention.

I'm not going to go into all of it, there are books on the subject. But what I'll always remember is Elmer insisting that we build and keep solidarity within the union. I also regret Elmer's offer to read the newspapers and minutes of the E.P. Conventions. He had them all upstairs in a locker. I wonder what happened to them when he died, because they are our history and there is probably no way of finding them again. In reading old issues of the *General Organization Bulletin*, I see now that Elmer had been on the General Executive Board numerous times. He was also on the General Organizing Committee of Timber Workers IU 120 during the 1930s.

I would visit once every other week. Elmer would lend me books and then we would discuss them. His favorite book of labor history was *Dynamite* by Louis Adamic. He said the analysis was spot on. He also lent me *Wobbly* by Ralph Chaplin. The EPs were venomous against Chaplin, so evidently Elmer had mellowed some over the years. He told me he understood Chaplin's desire to get out of prison and be with his family. But Elmer also refused to talk to his son who had become a military man. I was also told stories of the IWWs who disappeared. A delegate who would go out into the woods for a day's work and never to be heard from again. Or the secret "Red Squad" office in the Portland Train Station. Elmer cried when he told of how Wobs would be taken off the street and walk into the station only to be later found floating a block away in the Willamette River. I always wondered which fellow worker and friend had died that way.

I drifted away from the IWW in the mid-'80s. I would still see Elmer on the streets but would avoid him because I was embarrassed to be in his presence not holding a red card. He died in 1990 or so and willed his estate to the union. The GST at the time referred to him as just "some old wob." After dedicating 76 years of his life to keeping the IWW around for us, Elmer helped keep us afloat for a decade after his death. But that's another story.

★ ★ ★

In November I remember that we need to build the IWW press. In the past, our union's press was the central point to our work. Organizing can only be successful with plenty of education. Education comes primarily through the press. The *IW* is looking great these days so let's help F.W. Bekken by writing articles for it! Take out those November and May-day ads. Get out and sell it. Bring it to work.

★ ★ ★

F.N. Brill promises to return to his non-lecturing self next issue. Send holiday comments to: F.N. Brill, c/o Portland IWW, 616 E. Burnside, Portland OR 97214 USA or e-mail: fnbrill@yahoo.com.

Right to exploit

BY CHAD M. SNYDER

In 1947 the Tennessee legislature struck a blow to workers and labor organizers, making Tennessee a "Right to Work" state.

I work in Tennessee at Toshiba making televisions. I have lived here for only several months and have seen this law's damage firsthand. I lived most of my life in Pennsylvania around several steel and auto industries. My father had been a Teamster for a decade working in a warehouse.

I grew up in a strong union home knowing that if the union left so would my health care and the roof over my head. In Pennsylvania, when you were hired once you got through your 90 days of probation you could and would join the union. The company knew each and every employee that was hired had the power of the union behind him.

I don't enjoy such luxuries any more. The day I was hired at Toshiba I asked the head of personnel about the union. She asked, "Why would you want to waste \$14 a month on them?" They are using the fact that we pay union dues as a weapon. Instead of telling me yes, after your probation you have that right, they appeal to our wallets — not the facts.

On the shop floor, things are not much different. I work next to a woman my age who refuses to join the union because it won't help her. Her reason is this: since only a third of the shop is union, if she joins it won't make a difference and she has better uses for that

\$14. Another worker "heard" that the union won't stick up for him so why should he pay them?

Whatever happened to the worker spirit? This law has successfully done what Napoleon did to his enemies. He divided them and then conquered them. I also learned another lesson. Never ask nonunion employees if they like the benefits and pay that the union brought them. One worker said, "Now that we have it, why keep the union? What would they do, take them back?"

A website for American Electric Power Economic Development listed the top ten reasons to bring business to Tennessee: 1) Truly central location. 2) All roads lead here. 3) Bright business climate. 4) People ready to work. 5) It's a wonderful life. 6) Profit is a good thing. 7) We are a right to work state. 8) Diversity Defined. 9) Tennessee means technology. 10) Signed sealed and delivered.

Evidently, being a right-to-work state and increased profits have a bearing on business — enabling them to further exploit and destroy organized labor and increase their profits at our fellow workers' expense. This law that purportedly allows workers to choose to join a union or not was actually designed to break organized workers.

Those of us who live in a right-to-work state must fight this exploitation and take our actions directly to the shop floor to bring the others together. To fight this we must truly exercise our solidarity.

TV show pits jobless against each other

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

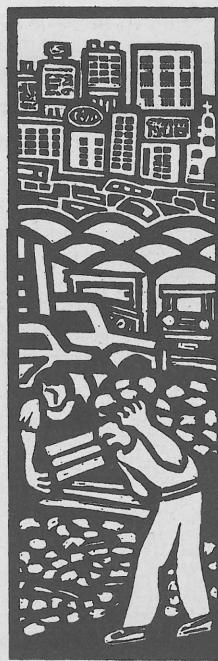
In an article titled "Jobless get their own reality TV show," *Variety* magazine reports that Sony recently bought the rights to a game show that pits unemployed people against each other for the chance to win jobs. The transnational purchased the rights to the show from an Argentinean company.

In Argentina, where about 50 percent of the population is unemployed, the show is aired weekly. It has come under heavy fire, though many desperate workers nevertheless find themselves applying to be contestants, desperate as they are for income.

"Human Resources" ("Recursos Humanos") awards health benefits, cash prizes and

ultimately jobs to unemployed contestants. In *Variety*, Sony executive VP of international productions Steve Kent defended the show from critics: "In addition to its truly feel-good outcome, 'Human Resources' also imparts valuable insights and guidance for anyone who will ever be looking for work. It's a show where everybody wins, because even the losing contestant earns something which is a big help when you're unemployed."

Over the past year Sony has laid off hundreds of people in the U.S. It thus seems ironic for the company to purchase a show that pits the laid-off against each other. Sony has not said whether those it has fired might be invited onto the show as contestants.



Solidarity needed to stop repression of migrant workers

BY JEFF SHANTZ

Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers in Korea are facing severe repression, including mass arrests and deportations. Since Sept. 1, between 50-100 migrant workers are arrested daily. Migrant workers are being scapegoated for the disastrous impact of the government's neoliberal restructuring. Most arrests have taken place in areas where migrant workers' associations, the Equality Trade Union-Migrant's Branch and Joint Committee for Migrants in Korea, have been most active.

Two migrant workers from Bangladesh, Kabir Uddin and Mohammed Bidduth, have been targeted for helping to organize a march of 1,500 migrant workers in Seoul on April 7. Kabir and Bidduth, who was beaten during interrogation, are still in custody and facing deportation.

The government is attempting to break migrant workers' resistance and their union. Beginning 11 years ago, foreign workers were recruited by the Korean Federation of Small Businesses to work under the notorious "trainee" system. Under this system migrant

workers are denied full labor rights and rights to free agency, meaning workers cannot change employers. They have to work for lower wages than domestic workers and can only move out of the "trainee" system after two years, with their employer's recommendation (something which is rarely granted). Workers are also denied full health insurance, and sick days can be taken out of their pay. Often wages are held by bosses for more than a year; sometimes without any payment.

The ETU-MB put out an international call for help in response to this brutal situation. We responded with a picket in front of the Toronto office of Korean Air. Rather than holding an action outside the Korean Consulate, we decided to adversely impact the Korean government's primary concern: the financial operations of a major Korean company. Leaflets were distributed to passersby about the conditions facing migrant workers. After half-an-hour, the office manager came out to tell us that our picket was interfering with business. One of the organizers told him that his concerns would be properly directed to the president, Kim Dae Jung (president@cwd.go.kr).

Another action will follow at a similarly appropriate corporate or government site. The need for international solidarity is crucial to free the migrant workers. No worker is illegal. "Trainees" are workers and deserve full rights regardless of national origin. ETU-MB can be contacted at: migrant@jinbo.net.

ORGANIZER TRAINING

A WORLD WITHOUT BOSSES. How can we help make it happen?

The IWW hosts trainings to help us connect workplace organizing with making the world a better place to live in. We believe in the potential of ordinary people to transform society, and we do our best to come up with practical steps we can take now to help get it going.

This training will be led by members of the IWW's Organizer Training Committee. The IWW believes that every union member is an organizer. We enjoy sharing stories of our successes and failures and learning about the same from our fellow workers. We think it's best for the people who make up our union, not paid staff and highly-paid bureaucrats, to call the shots and set the tone for our organizing.



November 23 – November 24

Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

Suggested donation: \$5-\$20 sliding scale each day, includes manual and lunch. Housing will be available for out-of-town guests, please make sure to mention it if you need a place to crash.

Space is limited, RSVP by November 10

For more information or to reserve a spot contact: Peterborough IWW (care of PCAP) 705-749-9694 or ptboiww@riseup.net

THE Minority Report

Being union
on our own
authority

BY ALEXIS BUSS

In this column and at other times, I have written about a major advantage the IWW has over business unions, specifically when it comes to our practice that any worker can join and find meaning in his or her membership through organizing regardless of whether or not a majority of workers on the job have declared in some fashion that they want to bargain with the boss: *Minority Unionism*.

There are other advantages to the IWW – we abide by the principle of one member, one vote. Every officer and representative in this union is elected, and the folks sitting in these seats rotate frequently. Every change in the structure of our union is voted on, including dues rates and constitutional amendments: *Democracy*. Our membership also tends to be very eager to engage in struggle to win better conditions. Wobblies are often the first to arrive on the picket line and the last to leave, even when the picket doesn't benefit them directly: *Militancy*. These elements shouldn't make us unique, but sadly often they do.

Increasing militancy and democracy can only benefit any workers' organization, especially business unions, and there are people who work quite hard for that kind of reform. But these are very limited reforms for unions that stay tamely within the limits of the labor law regime.

Since I wrote the first installment of this column, I have come to realize how troublesome the idea of minority unionism is to the business union model, particularly when it comes to jurisdictions. Let's look at the following hypothetical example:

Alice, a loading dock worker at Best Buy (an electronics superstore), is told that she must buy her own pair of safety shoes. That's legal. She doesn't want to, the safety shoes are expensive. Let's say for the sake of argument, most of her co-workers agree they shouldn't have to pay for the shoes. The policy that has been handed down is going to go into effect in two weeks.

Alice talks to an electrician who came in to run service for some new gadgetry. The electrician is an IBEW member, and tells her that if she were union, the shoes issue wouldn't happen because the union would make the company pay the cost of any safety-required clothing.

Alice calls the IBEW and says that she wants to join the union. This is crazy talk to the person who took her call. She'd need to go through the apprenticeship program and there's a big waiting list. And there's not enough work in the area to support new members. Alice hangs up the phone, bewildered by her encounter with craft unionism.

She talks to a trucker making a delivery. The trucker is a Teamster. The Teamster also tells her that making a union is a way to handle this situation. Alice calls the Teamsters and asks to join the union. Let's say in this case that we're dealing with a local that is experimenting with minority unionism, because they also have things going on at Overnite and they needed to develop some strategy that would keep a union presence on the job (please note, I'm saying this for the sake of argument – it's not something that has actually happened). The Teamsters say, "Yes, join us."

But one of Alice's co-workers has a brother who works in the public sector, also on a loading dock, and is represented by SEIU. That worker joins the SEIU.

The UFCW, representing retail workers, gets wind of the fact that this is going on and demands the memberships of these workers, which the AFL-CIO awards them. But neither worker wants the UFCW because that union is misrepresenting the folks at the shopping market across the way. Instead they buy their own pairs of safety shoes and forget about talking union.

I know the above is a scenario of my own

invention, but I think it can help to illustrate the problems that would pop up if business unions adopted any kind of minority unionism or direct affiliation program.

The reason I think it would likely turn out the way I describe above – maybe not in all cases, but often enough that it would be problematic – is that business unionists made a decision to abandon minority unionism in 1935 when they advocated for the Wagner Act.

The Wagner Act – while it allows for protections for workers engaged in minority unionism through its provision protecting concerted activity – was welcomed by officers of business unions because, among other things, the law guaranteed exclusive bargaining rights to unions that won representation and facilitated maintenance of membership provisions like dues check-off. And the AFL-CIO takes this even further in its structure with anti-raiding and jurisdictional language, which has protected the worst of the affiliate unions by blocking workers who cannot hope to imbue democracy and militancy in a union representing them, and instead wish to throw the bums out and get a new union.

In Australia, government, chartered unions, and the bosses have carved up the work life of the country into industrial jurisdictions. Unions are given exclusive bargaining rights for industry standards like time off, pay rates, safety regulations, hours and working conditions. They have the right to bargain regardless of the density of their membership, but the outcome of the bargaining affects every worker in the industry, union member or not. When a worker becomes a member, they often do so to address particular conditions in their own shops. One worker can be a union member and use the union to agitate for his own individual interests or for the entire shop.

Because of the history of American unions' fights for legal rights, I can imagine a system that apes the Australian system, but without the legal right to bargain for entire industries.

It would happen by the AFL-CIO carving up jurisdictions and agreeing that only unions with jurisdiction over an industry could take a member working in that industry. Much of this work has already been done, it has just been strayed from in these lean years. The Australian system came about because workers' activity was on the rise. Many went "union shopping," changing organizations as it suited them in pursuit of the maximum possible level of militancy. Instead of encouraging this militancy, a choice was made to control the workers by only allowing them membership in a very circumscribed manner.

An interesting side note: the Australian system isn't true industrial unionism. For instance, there is a secretaries' union. Secretaries are a necessary part of almost any industry, but instead of being part of the union that represents their industry, they are represented by a craft union. Ironically, although women overwhelmingly do the job, the union is controlled by anti-feminist men, largely because the union has very few voting members. The union does little to organize the people it represents, and even undoes the work of members looking to reform the union. The union can behave this way because it can maintain bargaining rights in spite of a very low number of actual members. So this allows a group of people who have come to be very unpopular with secretaries to exclusively represent them.

Back to the scenario of Alice, what would the IWW do? We'd get to work on the shoes issue right away. Alice would most likely first encounter either a mixed worker local (a General Membership Branch) or an Industrial District Council, an organization that helps unite all workers regardless of what industry they work in. She would be put in touch with other members, and given train-



Fellow Workers Carlos, Neil, Mike, Penny, Dave & Perry of the Chicago Haymarket Local 3 of the General Defense Committee at the Sept. 19 Pow Wow benefit for Leonard Peltier. The event featured Native American drummers, Mexican/Indian food, and an update on Leonard's plight. \$400 was raised for the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.

Death, rashes, force EPA to enforce pesticide regulations

Colorado farm workers itching for healthy conditions

BY PETER S. MOORE

José Casillas, a 17-year-old farm worker in Colorado, had a headache, went to a clinic and then died of pesticide poisoning. What Casillas did not know was that his employer had sprayed him with pesticide twice that week. He thought it was water and did not wash or change his clothes.

Casillas' story prompted Colorado Legal Services' Farm Worker Division to survey farm workers. Now they have released their report, *Hidden Costs: Farm Workers Sacrifice Their Health To Put Food On Our Tables*.

The workers' responses showcase the dangers they face: nearly half reported irritation in the nose, throat, skin, inflamed eyes and headaches. Fifty-nine percent said they never received the training in pesticide safety required by United States law. (See sidebar.)

"Workers frequently tell me about rashes and other health problems that seem to be pesticide-related, but they are unwilling to take action because they fear being fired," said Kimi Jackson, project director for the Casillas Pesticide Action Project at Colorado Legal Services. Farm workers typically earn \$5.15 per hour for sun-up to sun-down days, grossing about \$5,000 to \$7,000 per year. They harvest the lettuce, radishes, asparagus, soy beans, onions, melons, cabbages and other vegetables that fuel the \$1.23 billion Colorado agricultural industry.

When a group of farm workers noticed they had similar rashes and suspected foremen were ordering them into recently sprayed fields, they went to legal services for help. Legal services asked the local Environmental Protection Agency to inspect the field. The grower resisted, telling the EPA inspectors to get a warrant. He changed his mind after failing the inspection. "Within a week, the employer provided pesticide safety training to the approximately 110 workers at the farm, and took other safety measures which will improve the health of all the workers

ing and solidarity. She would learn how to organize to win demands, and how to build the union's presence on her job.

The IWW is open to all workers, and our system of industrial unions is made in order to enhance our power. The only reason to worry about which industrial union one should be in is to give ourselves the most bargaining power and job control possible – not to protect jurisdictions. The IWW opposed the Wagner Act when the thinkers who brought it into existence first thunk it up. That's because we saw the danger of asking laws to do our organizing for us, and we wanted nothing of the stifling bureaucracy, limited vision and anti-solidarity methods of the business unions.

Orienting ourselves towards building our movement this way makes us different in a very profound way. We are choosing to experiment with new methods of organizing, methods that have potential not only to succeed in winning small grievances, but in building a movement capable of making a real difference.

involved," said Jackson.

While the Hidden Costs report provides only a snapshot of working conditions, surveying less than 0.002 percent of Colorado's 40,000 or more farm workers, EPA inspectors found a worse situation in their first-ever survey of Colorado fields in 2001. Twenty of 22 inspected farm employers in Colorado failed to meet legal requirements, and the EPA cited 86 violations directly affecting 904 farm workers. As is required by the law for first offences, each employer received a letter of warning.

"Workers were not being trained. There was no central location where the required information was being posted, and several of them did not have decontamination supplies," EPA enforcement officer Britta Campbell told the *Denver Post*. She did most of the inspections in 2001.

Reports in Florida and California paint similar pictures of workers at risk of pesticide exposure. In the 1998 report, *Indifference to Safety: Florida's Investigation into Pesticide Poisoning of Farmworkers*, the Farmworker Justice Fund and the Migrant Farmworker Justice Project found that only two fines were laid against negligent employers out of 31 violations examined.

More recently, the United Farm Workers of America, Pesticide Action Network and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation released its annual *Fields of Poison 2002: California Farmworkers and Pesticides* report. Between 1997 and 2000, an average of 475 California farm workers per year reported pesticide poisonings. In 2000-2001, the Department of Pesticide Regulation issued a total of 520 fines and 4,069 warning letters to farm employers.

People can support farm workers' efforts to improve their conditions by helping them organize, establish their own unions, by boycotting products listed by the United Farm Workers, and buying organic food to support healthier working conditions.

Workers report: 22% reported difficulty breathing. 26% said they had experienced dizziness or weakness. 32% had vision problems and stomach aches. 36% had no access to toilets at work. 39% said they had never been warned about the danger of pesticides. 41% reported that they did not have access to hand washing water while they were working and were unable to wash pesticide residue from their skin. 47% reported irritation of the nose or throat.

48% said they had been sent to work in a treated field before it was safe to enter. 49% reported skin irritation, headaches or inflamed eyes after working in the fields. 59% reported that they never received training in pesticide safety as required under US law.

US EPA inspectors found: 36% of growers provided no soap or hand-washing facilities. 50% provided no emergency training for pesticides. 77% did not post a list of pesticides used in the last 30 days near fields. 91% of growers were in violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

From lock-out to lock-in

from page 1

The union said from the outset that it was committed to shipping all military cargo, and urged the PMA to ease the lock-out to allow ILWU workers to work military cargo and ships carrying essential supplies for Alaska and Hawaii and perishable goods.

The ILWU also arranged with cruise lines to work passenger vessels.

"Negotiating" at gun-point

The PMA has been intent on securing government intervention against dock workers since the ILWU contract expired July 1. "They have never engaged in serious negotiations," Stallone said. "They had the Bush administration waiting in the wings, waiting for an opportunity to intervene."

While the ILWU offered to give up hundreds of clerical jobs as long as the union retained jurisdiction over the work they performed, the bosses insisted on the right to subcontract union work and move new hires into a second-rate health plan. Inside and outside of the negotiating sessions, PMA worked hard to inflame the situation. PMA representatives showed up to negotiations with armed bodyguards, called in riot police

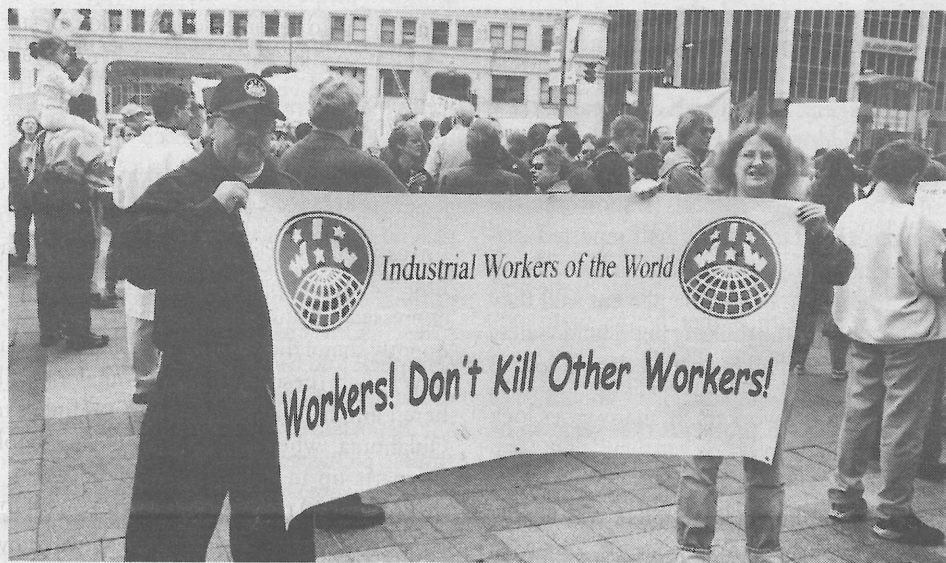
armed with pepper spray in Port Hueneme near Los Angeles, and twice locked workers out of their jobs.

In January, PMA President Joe Miniace previewed the bosses' plans to lock out the union to reporters, bragging that the Association had taken out a \$200 million line of credit to help it carry out the strategy.

Negotiations quickly bogged down over the PMA's desire to replace union workers with non-union workers operating new technology such as scanners, sensors and remote cameras to automate the process of tracking cargo. The union wants any jobs impacted by the new technology to remain under its jurisdiction, with union members controlling the flow of all information through the terminals.

The bosses have been outsourcing this sort of work for two decades, Stallone told the IW. "We are trying to get some of those jobs back."

Every contract negotiated in the past 40 years has dealt with the impact of technology on jobs, which have been slashed from 100,000 to less than 11,000 since the 1950s. Tonnage moving through the ports has more than doubled in the last 20 years.



Rally Against War: IWW members joined thousands of demonstrators marching through downtown Chicago Oct. 6 protesting U.S. plans to attack Iraq.

On the war cargo: An open letter to ILWU rank and filers

The news came Sept. 30. The UPI wire quoted ILWU President Jim Spinosa as saying, "We have told the military that our obligation to this country and to our military effort is one that we will not move away from. ... Anything our country needs in the interests of national defense, this union will provide." Two days later, Local 10 issued a release which read, "The ILWU is committed to shipping all military cargo."

Those weren't a good few days. As someone trying to help organize solidarity actions on the East Coast where I live, and as an anti-war activist, this course of action was very discouraging. The ILWU had my admiration for a number of actions that its members had taken: in solidarity with workers organizing against the apartheid regime in South Africa; in support of the thousands of workers, students and activists demonstrating against the World Trade Organization; and in support of a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal, political prisoner on Pennsylvania's death row.

I understand the desire to want to get back to work, but other strategies were available. For instance, I thought highlighting the dependence of Alaska and Hawai'i on West Coast shipping provided an excellent foot in the door. Untying this ship sent just one person back to work for only a short time, and the people most likely to be impressed by this show of loyalty went ahead and issued a Taft-Hartley injunction anyway.

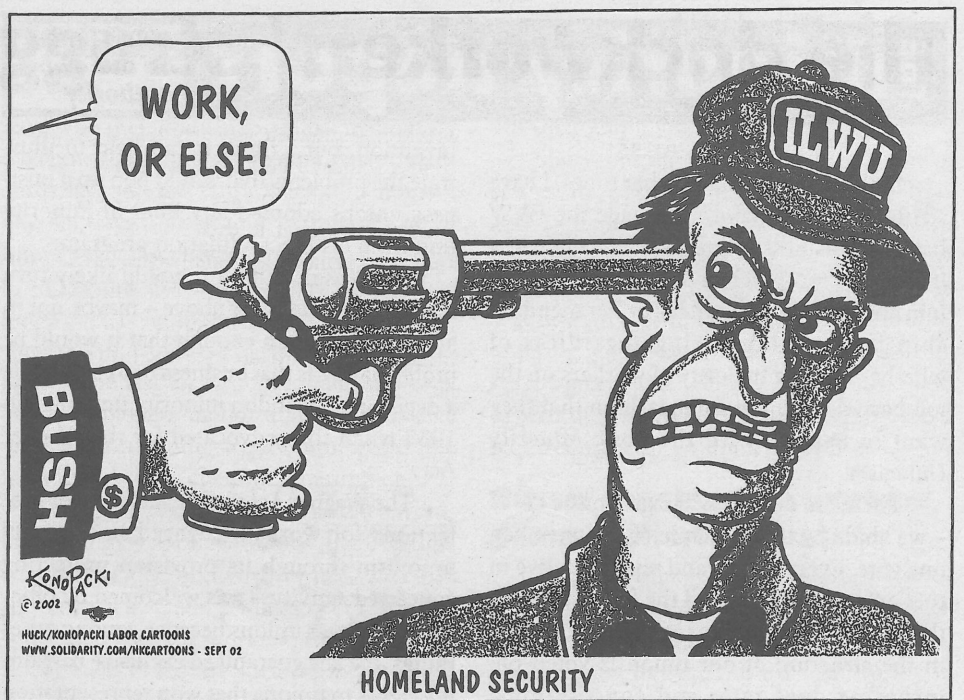
Meanwhile, thousands and thousands of unionists across the world are rallying against the war. These are the same unionists whose support will be key as the West Coast dockworkers' struggle continues. To offer to return to work for the express purpose of

loading cargo that is going to harm other working people must be discussed within the ranks of the union.

The IWW, which had job control in major ports on the East Coast from 1912 - 1923, also had to have this discussion. During World War I, the government was arresting our leaders at the slightest provocation. Our membership refused to sign no-strike pledges during the war because we saw no possible benefit. A prominent longshore worker and IWW organizer defended himself at trial against an accusation of being anti-American by saying that he and his coworkers had loaded war cargo. America's role in WWI was debated heavily, but even more so within the IWW because we had some key labor power organized and could have slowed, though probably not stopped, the war drive.

Something very significant happened a few years later, during the Russian Civil War. There was an internal squabble in the IWW, and one faction wanted the Philadelphia Wobblies out of the union. An accusation was made that they loaded ships with munitions destined for the Russian General Wrangel so that he could use them to kill peasants and workers. The accusation was untrue, and the indignant tone the Philadelphia longshoremen used while defending themselves tells me that the question of loading munitions was really dissected and they had reached a firm decision, based in part on what happened during WWI, and also on their feelings of solidarity through international shipyard workers.

Even later in 1936, after the IWW no longer had job control but was still a real presence, Wobblies were able to interrupt



"Their plan is to keep whittling away, bit by bit, until there are enough nonunion jobs that they can run the ports without us," Stallone said.

Bosses get quick service

The ILWU announced on Oct. 8 that it would accept a Dept. of Labor compromise offer to return to work for 30 days under the terms of the expired contract. Instead, a Bush press conference was moved up to coincide with this ILWU announcement, effectively drowning it out. It was during this "hastily arranged" press conference, as the AP called it, that Bush announced his decision to compel workers to return to work for an 80-day "cooling off" period, handing PMA bosses the victory they desired.

The Bush order came only a day after he appointed a legally required "fact finding" commission to report on the situation at the docks. Not surprisingly, support for the federal intervention into the labor dispute was bipartisan. One of the most vocal advocates of Bush intervention was California Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein.

As in a chorus, retail trade associations began asking Bush to intervene against the union hours after the lock-out began. "With the retail industry and consumer spending largely propping up a weak economy, the inability to get goods off the ships will quickly result in idling of distribution centers, closure of stores and layoff of workers," Tracy Mullin, the president of the National Retail Federation, said in a letter to Bush. The West Coast Waterfront Coalition, which represents companies such as Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target, The Gap, Toyota and Panasonic, similarly urged Bush to intervene.

The Bush administration held a briefing

munitions headed to Spain to be used against workers and peasants who were defending themselves against Franco's fascist takeover. That is because those workers believed in the power of connecting their own labor with solidarity actions with workers across the globe. Anti-fascists reached out to their Wobly counterparts to take action. Some Wobs even decided to go to Spain and help hold the line against Franco.

Because we are American workers, we are in a position of grave responsibility. We are the workers most able to stop the military aggression of our own country, and to interrupt the profits derived by American multinationals from wars all over the globe. That is why the recent ILWU decision, especially in the circumstance of the bosses' lock-out and the government's clear intention to destroy all our unions, is so discouraging. Working people all over the world ask Americans to use our labor power to help them in their simple desire to not be murdered. If we talk about it now, talk with these workers, we could very likely come to the conclusion that we do not want to see them murdered, and we would like to do what we can to stop it from happening.

One such occasion happened in 1971, when a Bengali woman named Sultana

for business lobbyists seven hours before going to court for a Taft-Hartley injunction, but provided no such briefing for unions.

"No president has ever been on this side of management this overtly," AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka told the Associated Press.

Even Bush supporters in the labor movement were angry. "We're extremely disappointed," said Bret Caldwell, a spokesman for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. "The whole strategy of locking out the workers and urging the president to invoke Taft-Hartley was clearly an employer strategy to get around negotiating a contract with these workers. It's a bad precedent. It gives management the upper hand."

The slave labor act

The Taft-Hartley Act, under which Bush acted, was widely denounced as a slave labor act when it was passed in 1947. It allows a federal judge to assess fines, issue contempt of court citations or take other actions during an 80-day cooling-off period. While the act could theoretically be directed against employers as well – and the injunction does include language ordering the PMA to engage in good faith bargaining – in practice it has only been directed against unions.

The government has repeatedly sought Taft-Hartley injunctions against the ILWU, most recently in the last waterfront strike in 1971 when the act was invoked twice. The "cooling-off period" has always failed to resolve the dispute. However, the injunction enables the employers to shift the fight until the post-Christmas period when cargo traffic is at its lightest.

This is the first time the Taft-Hartley Act

continued next page

Krippendorff got involved with a fledgling direct action movement protesting the U.S.'s supplying of arms to West Pakistan for use in a war against Bangladesh. I read about this story in a book called *Blockade* by Richard K. Taylor, but it was first told to me by George Lakey, a Quaker activist from Philadelphia.

Sultana went on a speaking tour. In Baltimore, the ILA decided to shun the cargo of the Pakistani ship the Padma for two days. An ILA officer in Philadelphia, John Resta, invited her to attend the ILA's convention a few days later in Florida. On first arriving at the Miami hotel where the convention was held, the anti-war activists were greeted with a banner which read, "I.L.A. Means 'I Love America.'" But Sultana had the courage to tell how American sponsorship of West Pakistan's military and economic war with Bangladesh was endangering the lives of her friends and family. The upshot? The ILA made it a policy not to load arms to Pakistan, and to support congressional efforts to end military and economic aid altogether.

Consider this an invitation for discussion. How will we use our labor power? Whose interests will it serve, the government that is trying to crush our organizations, or the working class of the world?

— Alexis Buss

The dockworkers' struggle – debating the issue

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

A few hours ago I called a Dallas AM radio station, KRLD, because the subject of the show was the lock-out of dock workers on the West Coast. This is something I happen to feel very strongly about, as should anyone who cares about the current state of the labor movement, or the economy, or human affairs in general. The views of the radio show's hostess typified the boss class's views on the matter. Unfortunately, many people are mouthing similar ideas – even people who have no real interest in seeing ILWU dock workers hurt; they just cannot think any other way because of what the media drums into their head night and day.

The show's hostess, whose name escapes me right now, was coming down hard against the ILWU and unions in general. "What kind of sympathy do they think they deserve, making anywhere from \$90,000 to \$150,000 per year? That's almost as much as the ball players were making when they went on strike!" She would also occasionally slip up and refer to the lock-out as a "strike" – which it is not and never has been.

What she was asking was was Bush right in invoking Taft-Hartley? Are the union's demands legitimate? I called to tell her. Some callers had been insinuating that this was all a Democratic plot to make Bush and other Republicans look bad right before the Fall elections. "I don't think unions and Democrats are synonymous," I said. "In Texas the Teamsters supported Bush's candidacy for governor just like they support his arctic oil drilling program. And a Democrat, California's Senator Dianne Feinstein, was one of the most vocal in urging Bush to step in to this dispute. This is more a matter of the PMA, the Pacific Maritime Association – who are a union also, a union of employers who have come together to protect their interests, just as the ILWU is a union of workers protecting theirs – trying to get the federal government to help them break a union."

She asked if I opposed Bush intervening. "Yes, I do. I think it was the intent of the PMA to force Bush's hand by locking out the

workers, so that the government would have to step in to remedy the situation."

Left to their own devices, the ILWU is much more powerful than the PMA; after all, they are the labor that make the PMA's profits possible. The PMA is an association of some 79 employers who operate docks all along the West Coast. In more honest times, such a collaboration of bosses might be called a cartel. Nevertheless, the ILWU is so strong that if the government had stayed out there

the situation to cause Bush to invoke Taft-Hartley, a despicably anti-working class piece of legislation from the 1940s.

The radio hostess was adamant that the workers were engaged in a slow-down – which, she maintained, is worse than a strike because you keep getting a paycheck. But the slow-down allegation hasn't been proven. I mentioned this.

Even if there were a slow-down, the ILWU had every right to engage in one, work-

as it was during the lock-out, it costs about \$1 billion per day, according to most reports. So it's integral labor, without which the economy slowly grinds to a halt. How can it not be worth a lot, then?

Is it really like baseball? No, it isn't. This isn't entertainment, or a past-time. This is the transport of vital goods: foods, communications equipment, medical equipment, autos, you name it. And why the outcry over how much the dock workers make, and not, for example, over how much money the PMA makes off the dock workers? Why no outrage over the PMA's billions in profits?

The dock workers have every right to every penny they get – not just because their labor is highly skilled and often dangerous (ever operate a loading crane 200 feet in the air over an oceanside port?), but because for decades dock workers have struggled to secure the decent living they now receive. They have fought tooth and nail for their livelihoods and it cost many of them their lives.

One caller called up to complain that she was a nurse and "only" got \$45,000 a year, so she wasn't sympathetic at all to these over-paid dock workers. Another caller had the moment of the night when he suggested she quit her job to become a dock worker, or start a union so that she could get benefits and higher pay. Every which way these anti-worker arguments turn, they run up against the wall of reality.

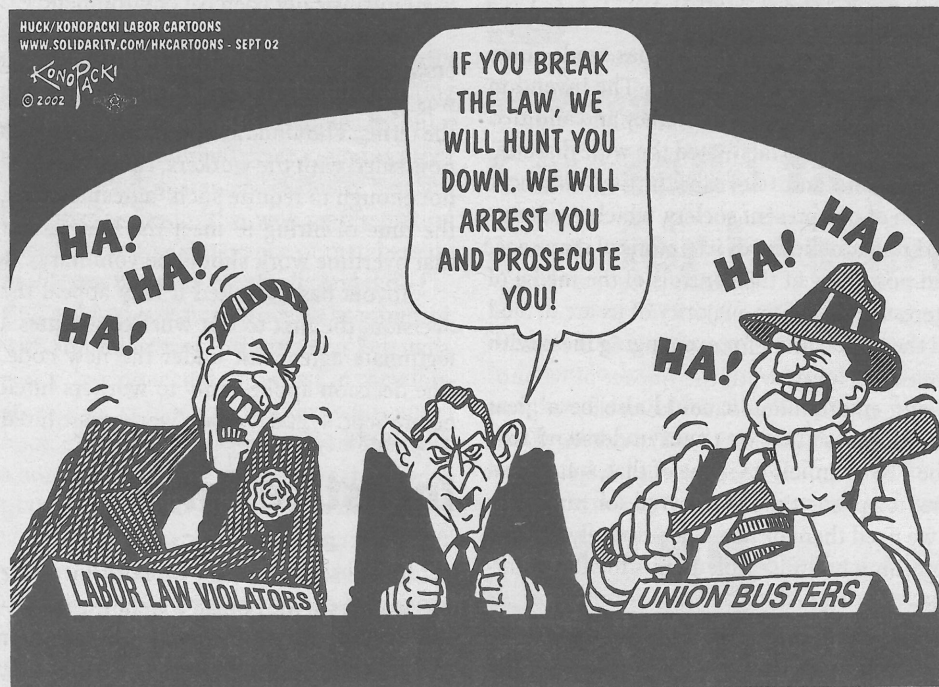
Because this talk show was on around midnight, many of the people listening were unionized truckers, driving on local interstates, tuning in from their cabs. Many expressed the union position much more eloquently than I did. "You keep going on about how much these dockworkers make. Well, here I am, hauling freight from a refinery to Oklahoma, where I will get out and hook the parts up to another refinery location. I make \$90,000 per year. Is that too much for you?" "No, I'm not saying that—" "Well, how much do you make per year? Why don't we talk about that?" "That's none of your business." "If technology was being introduced that eliminated some parts of your job, and you got paid less, you wouldn't be upset? Don't you think people have a right to get a decent income from their livelihoods?"

The hostess wasn't impressive in her response. Or another caller: "Maybe we should all just go and work at Wal-Mart, or 7-11, or Sears, or JC Penney, and let all the high paying jobs go down the toilet?"

Finally the hostess back-tracked to a position of "Well, I think unions are okay in some circumstances" – a far cry from her earlier claim that they had "outlived their usefulness" – "but technology now gives us things for cheaper and more efficiently." But, again, nobody said they were against technology in this case – just technology that is serviced by non-union, low-paid, workers!

She was determined to see things in such away that her views would be verified no matter what. This is something I've seen in most conservatives: "Facts be damned, I'll think what I want." Anyway, it was refreshing to hear truckers and some others call in to this show and defend unions and workers, and it helped me remember that not everyone on the planet is against unions or people having a decent standard of living. (You get these ideas sometimes when you live in as conservative a place as I do.)

As of this writing ILWU workers have been ordered back to work by Bush, the compassionate conservative who believes government shouldn't intervene in the economy. It remains to be seen how this important struggle will play out. Hopefully it will also serve to re-energize belief in the positive effects of unions in our society. In this regard I'll always remember one caller, who called up and said, "Well, I'm in management, and I don't support the ILWU at all – but I guess some people feel like they need to be paid a certain amount in order to live." Nah, really?



is no doubt that the ILWU would have eventually won, lock-out or not.

All along, the PMA has maneuvered to get the government into the process; they know they stand a much better chance with business-friendly Bush on their side than they do on their own. PMA reps have come to negotiation sessions with armed bodyguards because they say they are "scared" of union officials. They locked the gates and refused to allow workers to come in after they claimed workers were engaged in a slow-down. Riot cops armed with batons and pepper spray were called down in one incident at Port Hueneme, near Los Angeles. They have done whatever they could to inflame

ing as they have since July without a contract and with no sign that the bosses wanted one. Nevertheless, the "slow-down" is continually harped upon as evidence of the dock workers' bad faith, or that they are up to some kind of chicanery on the job.

But look at what management did: they locked out the workers. In many cases lock-outs are illegal, yet few boss shills are rushing to condemn the PMA for acting this way. Because the PMA claims there was a slow-down, it has been taken as fact in the media. And why would workers feel compelled to slow down, anyway? Defenders of Bush and the PMA don't want to think about it.

This should have been one of the things uncovered by the fact-finding commission Bush appointed on Oct. 7: was there really a slowdown? What are the facts? But the fact-finding commission, which is a legal prerequisite to ordering workers back to work, convened for just a few hours before telling the president he should get a court injunction against the workers.

How often do we wish the government was this expedient in NLRB cases in getting us back wages? Bush didn't care about the facts; he was just going through the motions to get to the point where he could get the injunction against the union.

The KRLD hostess kept going back to the technology issue. I didn't get a chance to comment on it, but her contention was basically that the ILWU are "Luddites" because they oppose new technologies that may eliminate their jobs but which, nevertheless, she claimed, make society better and make many things less expensive (ha!).

But the ILWU has never opposed technology – they oppose eliminating union jobs. If the people who service and use the new technology are ILWU members, then they are not opposed. The issue is the union membership status of those working with it. This distinction is extremely important. Only in the anti-worker mind of a conservative talk show host does this amount to "Luddism" or hating technology indiscriminately.

What about the fact that dock workers make high pay? The hostess made much of a pay range of \$90,000 to \$150,000 per year, which is on the high end. A more constant figure I've seen is \$60,000 to \$80,000.

Either way, it's a lot of money – and rightfully so. This is skilled labor, highly skilled labor. It is extremely vital to the economy – something proven by the fact that when this kind of labor is withdrawn from the economy,

Needed: workers solidarity

Six environmental activists were arrested Oct. 10, after they chained themselves to the entryway of the Pacific Maritime Association offices in San Francisco. Activists unfurled a 120 square foot banner reading, "Bush Makes PMA Rich; Workers Get The Taft," above the doorway of the PMA building. Protesters said they wanted to give the Association "a taste of its own medicine" by staging a lockout of PMA employees. Police cleared the doorway within an hour.

In the period leading up to the injunction, demonstrations took place in ports across Europe, and unions across the globe have pledged joint solidarity action. As we go to press, that solidarity has taken the form of issuing statements and joining protest actions, but many dockworkers are pressing for more militant action.

The IWW General Executive Board has issued a statement (published last issue) calling on rank-and-file workers to take the lead in refusing to work ships bound for or sailing from the U.S., and called for "a working class boycott of American goods until the ILWU is fairly back at work."

Such solidarity actions by dock workers around the world would be the quickest way to force the PMA to pull back from its attacks on the ILWU and reach a settlement.

Spy cameras to go

Steelworkers Local 1231 members in Nova Scotia have forced Trenton Works managers to remove all security cameras from the rail car plant. Five hundred workers walked off the job in late September when the spy cameras were installed. The union said surveillance is an issue of fundamental human rights and could not be tolerated.

Lock-out, continued from page 6

has been used in a lockout.

Even union officials who obey these injunctions are not safe from contempt of court proceedings. John L. Lewis, the long-time head of the United Mine Workers, was found guilty of contempt in the 1940s despite ordering workers to return to their jobs. The government claimed his order, which was not obeyed, was not sincere.

More recently, mine workers defied Jimmy Carter's back-to-work order in 1978, saying – in the words of Charlie King's song – "Mr. Taft can dig it, Mr. Hartley can haul it, 'cuz we're going to leave it in the ground." The mine owners were forced to negotiate a settlement with the union in that strike.

Back to court?

At press time the PMA was complaining that the union was not supplying enough workers to clear the backlog of cargo. However, in several ports requests for workers far exceeded the number of union members, forcing dispatchers to turn to the hundreds of "casuals" who work the waterfront, receiving lower wages and no benefits.

Stallone noted the irony of the bosses complaining of a shortage of workers when they have rejected repeated union requests to register and train more longshore workers. "We want to move these people up," he said. "They don't want to hire them because that makes the union stronger, but it comes back and bites them in the butt."

If more dock workers were added to the rolls, they would join the ranks of "B" members who pay ILWU dues and receive union wages and benefits, but are denied the right to vote in union elections and are not guaranteed work in slack times.



It can not be denied that over the millennia our two-legged species has made some wonderful technological progress, especially in the area of communication. The invention of the printing press a number of centuries ago facilitated the spread of literacy and afforded us the luxury of learning ideas from far and wide places. It also facilitated the wide dissemination of communication from around the earth. Radio and television further enhances those potentialities. Unfortunately, the composition of our present society, which is administered by a pitiful minority of us, is administered to maintain us all in a cultural stone age.

Because those who through their wealth and power are at the controls of the media of communication use them to serve their own interests, the greater majority of us are denied the potential of the educational possibilities and the opportunity for exchanging ideas with our fellow humans, no matter where they happen to be located.

Television has the potential of not only being entertaining, it could also be a great educational tool. It could introduce us to other cultures so that we could understand that we homo sapiens are pretty much alike. True, the PBS channels do some of that, but unfortunately one has to stay awake in the wee hours, for prime time is reserved for hucksters who inveigle us to buy their products, whether we need them or not. It is primarily used to promote the political agenda of those who are nothing but miserable pimps for the dominant economic interests.

The news that we are given over the tube is only the news that they want us to hear, and as such is often distorted if not just plain inadequate. A relative who lives in one of the European cities tells me that upon going to the opera she passes the American embassy where busloads of police are guarding the joint from those who take umbrage at Georgie the Tuch's plans for an all-out war against Iraq. However, none of this is aired over the news channels here. Of course the folks in Europe are a bit concerned, for if said war does break out they are close enough to catch the fallout.

There is the aggravating tendency of having your mailbox stuffed with tons of junk mail exhorting you to partake in the consumerist orgy – an example of where another great technological advancement becomes perverted by the orgy of consumerism. Fax and the Internet provides us ordinary stiff with the means to exchange ideas instantly with others in far-off places without the cost of postage or long-distance telephone. However, this potential boon to communication among us ordinary stiff is being messed up by the consumerist society that we have long been saddled with. With junk mail in the mailbox, one only has to pitch it into the nearest waste basket, a minor annoyance at the least. But now junk mail is coming into one's personal fax machines, using up precious supplies of paper and ink.

There has been talk of exerting censorship on the Internet, the excuse being protecting innocent young minds from pornography, the bogie of pornography that has long been the excuse for censorship. The simple matter is that those who control us are concerned about factors other than pornography. They are more concerned about people having an economical means of exchanging ideas with others, no matter what the distance. It is a medium that has the potential of spreading ideas and stimulating people to think. That might well spell disaster to those who control us.

Pornography is a healthy industry here in Freedomland, and our manipulators would rather have us reading or gawking at obscene material, lest we find among ourselves the possibilities of having a better human society. Why else does culture take a bottom rung in our mass entertainment?

This is the month that commemorates the landing on these shores of a boatload of religious fanatics who would have starved if it were not for some of their Indian neighbors who took pity on them and showed them how to survive in their new environment. It is said that when the pilgrims landed, they fell on their knees, then they fell on the Indians. For that reason, your scribe does not celebrate Thanksgiving. I have been asked if I didn't have anything to be thankful for. I always say, "No! The Mayflower didn't sink."

— C.C. Redcloud

Control over jobs saves workers' lives

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

Researchers from the University of Texas School of Public Health recently published findings that workers who have little control over their jobs are 35% more likely to die during a ten year period than those who enjoy more decision-making power.

Professor Benjamin C. Amick III and his research team found that "alienating work" that carried little decision-making power could ultimately be life-threatening. The team studied 7,500 responses collected by a University of Michigan survey. The results were reported in the Sept. 25 *Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune*.

"If people aren't working meaningful jobs, that affects their health," Amick told Reuters. Reuters said the results indicate that "People who spend more of their working lives in jobs where they have few opportunities to decide what work to do and how to go about doing it tend to die earlier than employees given more decision-making opportunities."

The report refrained from recommending a solution that included workers' control over production. This, however, is the only way to establish worker control over jobs, which, according to the report, is exactly what the health problem is.

A jobless recovery?

Although bosses continue to announce massive lay-offs and "help wanted" signs are few and far between, the government claims the jobless rate has fallen to 5.6 percent. However, a survey of employers found fewer people on payrolls, and help-wanted ads are down sharply. (The official unemployment rate is calculated in a way that excludes many – sometimes most – jobless workers.)

Labor Department economists claim the economy is growing at a rapid pace, but this is (at best) a jobless recovery. Bosses are pushing workers left on the job for increased production – relying on speed-up and unpaid overtime to make up for missing workers.

Ontario workers in overtime fight

Workers at Toyota's Cambridge plant have won their challenge against mandatory overtime. Ontario's new employment standards law sets the work week at 8 hours a day, six days a week, but permits up to 10 hours a day if workers agree.

(The law also allows bosses to average hours over a one-month period to avoid overtime pay if workers "agree." Such "agreements" can last for no more than two years. While employers are not supposed to coerce workers into signing, a nonunion workplace is an intrinsically coercive environment.)

Toyota argued that since it notified workers when they applied for jobs that overtime was part of the job, workers had agreed to the terms. The Ontario Ministry of Labor has now sided with the workers, ruling that it is not enough to require such "agreements" at the time of hiring to meet the law's intent that overtime work should be voluntary.

Toyota has indicated it may appeal the decision, the first to test what constitutes a legitimate agreement under the new code. The decision applies only to workers hired before Sept. 4, 2001; newer workers are hired

under irrevocable "agreements" which spell out their employment conditions.

Many bosses in nonunionized workplaces are now requiring workers to sign away a host of labor rights, including the right to refuse overtime, as a condition of hire. Since many workers are desperate to secure a job, employers have little trouble exacting whatever conditions they please in such "agreements." However, many labor law experts question whether this meets the Act's requirements for voluntary agreement.

Aussie construction workers demand shorter hours

The Australian CFMEU building trades union has launched a campaign of industrial action aimed at winning a 36-hour week. The hours would be taken in the form of seven three-day weekends.

CFMEU New South Wales secretary Andrew Ferguson says leisure time was top of the agenda for workers in an industry that routinely works six days a week. "Building workers are entitled to spend time with friends and families, same as anyone else."

250 workers at Loman warehouse, has been there and he's learned whose rights really matter and how they are protected.

An excerpt from Darryl Gehlen's LRB 101: "From everything I have studied and learned about the LRB, and not just this strange little grievance, I have some conclusions. I paid too much attention to the language in the law and not the process. The language is window dressing, it has no teeth, and the process is designed to hide this fact.

"The process is not designed to allow a full and open disclosure but severely limits it. What is considered are legal loopholes by a "system" that has granted one side a significant advantage.

"Hidden behind the legalese and the process lies that simple truth. The LRB ... is largely concerned with ensuring that businesses are not impacted in any significant way. This is why the timing has worked out as it has. Coincidentally, the ruling is expected no sooner than the very day the collective agreement is slated to end."

Injustice for All

BY PAT MCGUIRE

Today is the last day of work for some 250 workers at the Loman warehouse in Langley B.C. Many have already worked their last shift. Since the beginning of the year, these workers have fought a courageous battle to save their jobs and to raise awareness of corporate greed. They fought, for the most part, on their own.

Throughout their campaign they were encouraged by their union to put their faith in the B.C. Labour Relations Board, where UFCW Local 1518 had filed a number of complaints against their employer. One by one these have been dismissed. Today only one – a common employer application – remains to be decided and the prospects don't look encouraging.

Working people believe the Labour Relations Board is there to protect their rights, along with those of employers and unions. This workplace activist, who is among the

No way up the pay scale without unions

continued from page 1

demonstrate that she still believes in the social-democratic idea that the state can help the poor by redistributing income.

The problem is no one believes that idea anymore. In Canada, the centre-right Conservatives and Liberals consecutively dismantled this system and heralded in the New Economy, whose foundation is low-paid, low-skill, go-nowhere jobs. As a result, people who believe in the collective good are fighting for individual and community autonomy from the state, while on the individualist-capitalist side people are fighting for corporate privilege and independence from the state. Meanwhile, the political parties hover over the corpse of Parliament, claiming the voice of the Canadian people.

No one is interested in tinkering reform by a gutted, gutless government. What people on both sides of this inequality divide believe is that through empowerment, whether collective or individual-corporate, they can meet their goals. Maxwell's solutions are all government-led, which speaks to her audience and primary financial backer.

Typical of most policy wonks in Ottawa, she completely ignores the role of unions in improving wages. Unions have a proven record for raising wages, improving conditions and winning rights for marginalized people. Meanwhile, federal and provincial governments have built a reputation of dragging union negotiations, legislating workers back to work, cutting social assistance and health care, and generally cheering on the destruction of Canada's manufacturing, agricultural and natural resource industries so the high-tech bubble had room to expand.

Two million Canadians are working part-time and low-paying jobs for a reason: the Canadian government and its corporate allies see it as a short-term benefit plan for their political and economic future. Profits come from low wages; what is good for Indonesia can be good for Canada. And they're going to try.

For this reason, Canadian workers need to start organizing unions and reforming the existing ones in order to put their future ahead of the government-corporate alliance. Like it or not, working people are on their own. Tax breaks from the state like those suggested by Maxwell, are not going to help people anymore than tax cuts. What will help working people is a vibrant and diverse union movement that devotes serious energy to organizing low-wage jobs such as the service sector and uses militant tactics beyond pickets, marches and press releases.

Minimum wage in Canada

Province:	Minimum Wage:
Alberta	CAN\$5.90
British Columbia	CAN\$8.00
Manitoba	CAN\$6.25
New Brunswick	CAN\$5.90
Newfoundland (age 16+)	CAN\$5.50
N.W.T. (age 16+)	CAN\$6.50
Nova Scotia (skilled)	CAN\$5.80
(unskilled)	CAN\$5.45
Ontario	CAN\$6.85
P.E.I.	CAN\$6.00
Quebec	CAN\$7.00
Saskatchewan	CAN\$6.00
Yukon (17+)	CAN\$7.20
Source: http://www.labour.gov.sk.ca/MINWAGE.HTM	

The IWW in the history books

COMPILED BY JON BEKKEN

Every year the Industrial Worker looks back at recent historical writings on the IWW:

The little-known 1913 Denver Free Speech Fight is the subject of Don Mitchell's "Controlling Space, Controlling Scale: Migratory Labour, Free Speech, and Regional Development in the American West" (*Journal of Historical Geography* 28(1), 2002, 63-84. Mitchell situates the free speech fights in the context of struggles to control migratory labor and public space – central both to IWW organizers and to the local economy. Employers were able to rely on local newspapers and the AFL for support, but a flood of out-of-town Wobblies forced city officials to concede the right to speak.

IWW efforts to organize women workers are discussed in Mary Triece's "Rhetoric and social change: Women's struggles for economic and political equality, 1900-1917" (*Women's Studies in Communication* 23[2], Spring 2000, pp. 238-260). The 1912 Lawrence strike is the subject of Michael Topp's chapter in **Italian Workers of the World**, edited by Donna Gabaccia and Fraser Ottanelli (University of Illinois Press, 2001).

Maria Pascualy's "A Witness to History: The Life and Times of Ralph Chaplin" (*Columbia* 15(2), 2001, pp. 12-15) offers a short biographical sketch of the commercial artist and IWW activist who wrote "Solidarity Forever" and **The General Strike**. And the Canadian labor magazine *Our Times* is serializing a comic history, "Red Flags/Red Skin," that discusses an IWW dock workers local with many native members.

Several articles on IWW history have run in recent issues of *Anarcho-Syndicalist Review*. ASR 31 ("The Tragedy of Fosterism," Spring 2001, pp. 13-15) included my review essay of James Barrett's **William Z. Foster and the Tragedy of American Radicalism** (University of Illinois Press, 2000), which addresses Foster's attempt to persuade our union to dissolve itself before he settled into life as a Stalinist hack. While Barrett is sympathetic to Foster's "syndicalism," I argue that his deep-seated authoritarianism and contempt for rank-and-file workers was evident from the start. The essay is accompanied by selections from the IWW press of 1911 debating Foster's proposition ("Boring From Within: The Debate," pp. 15-22, 35-36), including Foster's unsuccessful appeal for members to elect him to edit this newspaper.

IWW members – many expelled from the U.S. during the Palmer raids – helped launch an experiment in workers' self-management in the early 1920s that the Bolsheviks decided offered a dangerous example to our Russian fellow workers and shut down. Anatoly Shtyrbul's "The Autonomous Industrial Colony 'Kuzbass'" (translated by Mark Harris, ASR 34, Spring 2002, pp. 21-23) offers a short introduction to this little-known effort, which was a success on the industrial front, even if it was ultimately unable to overcome the opposition of the authorities.

And ASR 35/36 (Fall 2002, pp. 17-35) features a tribute to IWW organizer Sam Dolgoff, who joined the union in the 1920s and remained an active member until his death in 1990. In addition to reminiscences and articles on Dolgoff's activist career and

his writings, Mike Hargis reflects on Dolgoff's efforts in the 1970s and 1980s to reorient the IWW in a more explicitly revolutionary unionist direction.

Turning to a backlog of dissertations, Jay Miller's "Soldier of the Class War: The Life and Writing of William E. Trautmann" (Wayne State University, 2000) offers the first scholarly treatment of this important IWW co-founder, focusing on his unpublished autobiography, a novel about the McKees Rock strike, and an essay on workers' councils and industrial democracy. Miller also looks at Trautmann's extensive writings for the IWW press before he left the IWW in 1913 – briefly passing through the SLP-dominated "Detroit IWW" before apparently withdrawing from the labor movement altogether. While documenting an important figure in the IWW's early history, Miller's primary focus is on a rhetorical analysis of Trautmann's writings.

Frank Higbie offers another look at migratory labor in "Indispensable outcasts: Seasonal laborers and community in the upper midwest, 1880 - 1930" (University of Illinois, 2000). Drawing on government and social reformers' studies of "hoboes," "tramps" and "floaters," Higbie turns to IWW organizing to examine how towns handled the seasonal influx of outside labor. Part of a growing body of work attempting a social history of the migratory workers who built the west, and who played a key role in building the IWW; he concludes with a brief chapter on the modern resurgence of contingent labor.

Daniel La Botz's "Slackers: American war resisters and Communists in Mexico, 1917-1927" (University of Cincinnati, 1998) is primarily devoted to left-wing Socialists who fled the United States to escape the draft and the Red Scares, but also addresses the role radical expatriates played in helping to establish the IWW's Mexican administration, which conducted important strikes among petroleum and railroad workers, and continued to exist into the 1960s.

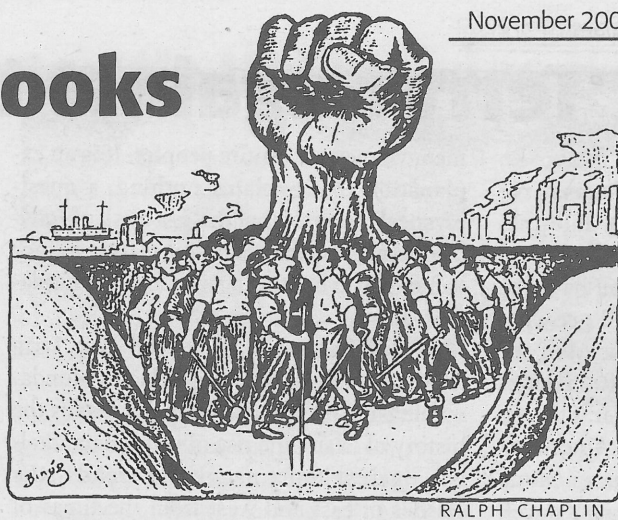
Troy Fuller's MA thesis "Our Cause is your cause": The relationship between the Industrial Workers of the World and the Partido Liberal Mexicano" (University of Calgary, 1997) adds to our knowledge of the role of IWW members in the 1910 rebellion. Fuller notes that Mexican workers in the United States played the key role in initiating and sustaining the IWW-PLM collaboration; veterans of this movement continued to play a role in the southern California IWW for decades to follow.

Todd Pfannestiel's dissertation "Rethinking the Red Scare: The Lusk Committee and New York State's fight against radicalism, 1919 - 1923" (College of William and Mary, 2001) examines the legislative committee that went after the IWW and other radical organizations, helping to lay the groundwork for the better-known Palmer Raids, before turning its attention to a witch hunt against radicals in the school system. The Lusk Committee was an important part of the post-World War I red scare, though Pfannestiel is quite mistaken in his claim that the red scare ended in 1923 when the committee was disbanded. IWW members in particular continued to feel the full weight of government persecution under state criminal syndicalism laws for years to come.

I have now had an opportunity to glance at James Sanful's dissertation, "The Militant Activities of the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.): A Sociological Analysis" (City University of New York, 2000) mentioned last year. It is a pretentious account based almost entirely on the secondary literature, replete with factual errors, which

Overtime ban proposed

The Australian Congress of Trade Unions is considering calling on workers to refuse to work overtime for a day of protest over the growing work week. Nearly half of full-time workers are putting in the equivalent of an extra day of unpaid labor each week.



focuses on questions such as why the IWW allowed workers to direct their own strikes and set their own policy, instead of our officers taking "full command" of the situation.

More interesting is Joyce Caggiano's dissertation "No God, no master": The strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1912" (Union Institute, 2000). While starting from the false premise that the IWW struck under the "No God, No Master" banner, Caggiano (an Episcopalian minister) examines the troubled relationship between churches and labor in the early 20th century, trying to understand why churches have so often placed themselves on the side of oppression and exploitation. Much of her dissertation draws upon the Bread and Roses strike as a focal point for exploring these issues, going on to examine the more labor-friendly Social Gospel and Christian Socialist movements. Caggiano relies too heavily on Foner's account, but offers a sympathetic attempt to reconcile institutional religion with workers' emancipation. A Lawrence striker did carry a "No God, No Master" banner, a sentiment shared by many in Lawrence's Italian immigrant community. Other strikers were deeply religious, and the IWW offered common ground where these workers could (and did) come together to defend their common interests as workers. But they did face fierce opposition from much of the community's religious leadership – not all of it bought and paid for.

Paul Cappucci's dissertation, "The lasting impact of the 'dusty fight': The 1913 Paterson silk strike and William Carlos Williams' development as an American poet" (Drew University, 1998), is less about the strike than about Williams' poetic encounters with the city, though Cappucci argues that the strike was a pivotal moment in his artistic development.

There is also a growing body of histori-

cal material about the IWW on the web. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn's "Memories of the IWW" can be found at www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/5202/rebelgirl.html, including the complete text of a 1962 talk and related materials.

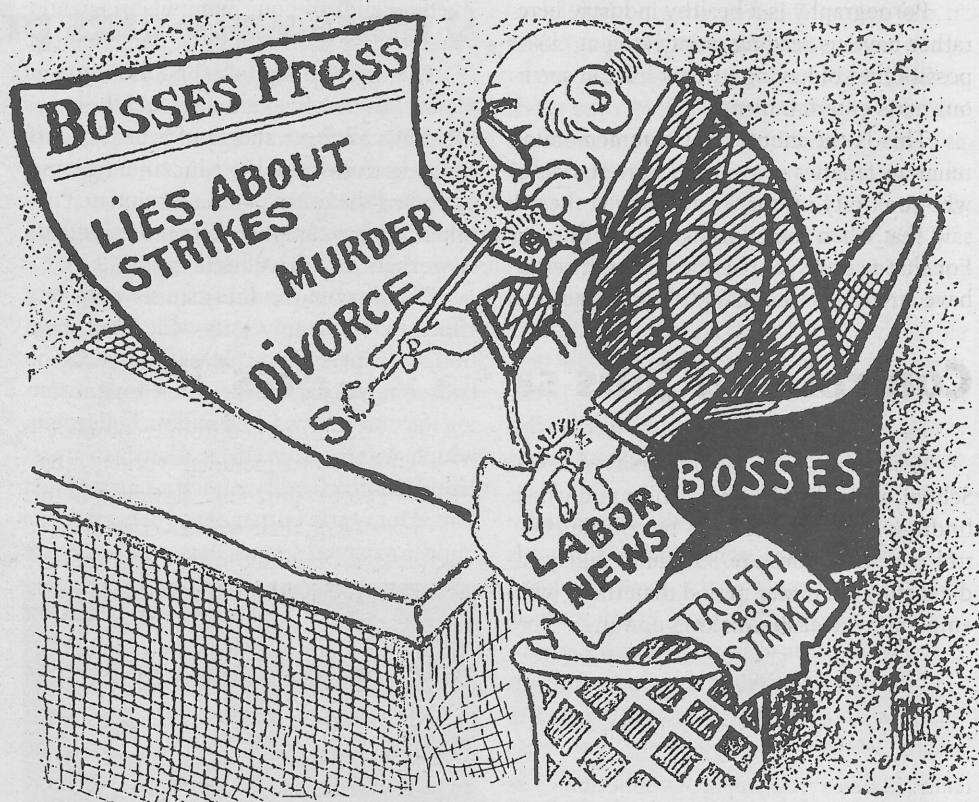
Documents from the 1907 **Haywood-Moyer-Pettibone trial** can be found at www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/haywood. The site includes a chronology of related

events, biographies, images and maps, and excerpts from the trial and court decision. And a collection of contemporary newspaper accounts and other documents, photographs, and personal recollections of the **1917 Bisbee Deportation** can be found at <http://digital.library.edu/bisbee/index.php>.

A report on the **Industrial Worker** by Victoria Thorpe and Chris Perry can be found at <http://faculty.washington.edu/gregory/laborpress/Thorpe.htm>. The quality of the research is uneven (it inexplicably claims we ceased publication in 1975) and the authors are clearly unfamiliar with IWW history; nonetheless they offer a useful overview of this newspaper's early years and a smattering of excerpts that might entice the curious to look up the microfilm for themselves.

The complete text of Robert Tyler's long out-of-print **Rebels of the Woods: The IWW in the Pacific Northwest** is now available at www.winfinity.com/beachwalla/rebels/rebels.htm. Quite hostile to the contemporary IWW, Tyler nonetheless presents one of the better accounts of IWW organizing in the Pacific Northwest timber industry.

Reviewed in our July issue was Lynn Laitala's **Down From Basswood – Voices of the Border Country**, which deals in part with Finnish Wobblies in the Mesabi Range. **Carlos Cortez Koyokuikatl**, a catalog reviewed in our September issue, discusses the veteran Wobbly's art, life and poetry. The appalling children's anti-labor novel **Rock-buster**, the protagonist of which is a fictional Wobbly coal miner/songwriter, was reviewed in our June issue. And Greg Hall's excellent **Harvest Wobblies** was reviewed in our April issue. *Harvest Wobblies* is a valuable addition to the growing body of local/industrial histories of the IWW, works which document how the IWW functioned on the job and the union's resurgence in the 1920s.



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IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

Sam Dolgoff

IWW ORGANIZER & ASR CO-FOUNDER

Anarcho-Syndicalist Review

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"A very important, if not the most important, voice for anarcho and revolutionary syndicalism in the English language today..."

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Reviews: Terror against terrorism

REVIEW BY LEN WALLACE

The Clash of Fundamentalisms: Crusades, Jihads and Modernity, by Tariq Ali, Verso, 342 pages, 2002, \$22, CAN\$32.

"You are the government, you have the soldiers and the guns, and you'll get what you want, maybe even tomorrow. After the Christians fetch the gold for you from under the ground you'll be even stronger. But you know, Your Excellency, that the Americans aren't doing it for God." (character Miteb al-Hathal from Abedlrahman Munif's novel, *Cities of Salt*)

A year after the horrible events of Sept. 11 last year, a war cry has arisen from the offices of the U.S. White House – a summons to wage terror on terrorism, to invade Iraq, to overthrow the "Hitler" of the Gulf, Saddam Hussein, to bring the shining light of democracy at bayonet point, fashioned by the principle power of U.S. politico-military might.

Sure enough, if "democracy" and "peace" cannot be had by economic globalization, are frustrated by mere political means, then Clausewitz's "politics by other means" – brute military force – must hold sway. Meanwhile the forces of reaction within the Mid-East are seemingly defeated (the Taliban in Afghanistan), in disarray (where is Osama Bin Laden?), or merely biding their time in a new war of the New World Order.

Right-wing political pundits have tried to fashion this as a war simply against "Evil," as if terrorists are simply born, that a mystical thing called "Evilness" has taken hold of

men, women and entire peoples. It is an explanation that explains nothing, a quasi-mystical rationale that this is a clash of "civilizations." The mantra becomes its own fundamentalism fighting against another fundamentalism.

Pakistan-born Marxist journalist Tariq Ali dares to delve into this "clash of fundamentalisms" in his new book. He details the history of Islam, the rise of its fundamentalism against more secularist trends, the clashes of east and west from the times of the Crusades to the "post-modern" era.

He also exposes the role of western (especially U.S. and British) military involvement in the Mid-East as deliberate policy that enforces or executes a terrorism just as devious and destructive as that of Sept. 11. It is a war of Islamic fundamentalism against the neo-liberal fundamentalists and corporate ayatollahs.

Right-wing Islamism is a response to western imperialism as peoples are shut out from democracy and self-determination not only by their own political elites but as a deliberate policy of imperial interest. Democratic voices are stifled. Iraq's Hussein is supported as a friend of the west in order to wipe out left-wing sentiment and unionists in his own country, to wage war against Iran (which is also supported militarily to wage war on Iraq); U.S. military force in Saudi Arabia enforces the brutal regime of the rich elite; the Taliban of Afghanistan are supported in a jihad against the Soviet Union.

No voice was ever raised against the brutalization and oppression of women, the negation of elementary democracy, the murders of unionists and of homosexuals. In the words of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter."

Now those "freedom fighters" are no longer in "our" interests. And Tariq Ali makes the distinction between "our" interests – the interests of the corporate-military state – and the interests of the rest of us.

It is a chilling history – the clash of Israeli might against Palestinians, of Muslim against Hindu, of Pakistan against India that has ruined political discourse with the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children. All of it presided over by the U.S. and England.

Quoted is the 1996 CBS interview of White House spokeswoman Madeleine Albright. Lesley Stahl: "We have heard that half a million children have died in Iraq [from economic boycott and sanctions and effects of the Gulf War]. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. And you know, is the price worth it?" Madeleine Albright: "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price? We think the price is worth it."

This is a terrorism as repugnant as Osama bin Laden's and subsequently clothed in the same fundamentalist verbiage of God, morals, Property and civilization. One must, as Tariq Ali has done, tear down the mystifications and the great lie behind it all.

Freedom and war

BY STEVE KELLERMAN

A Loss of Freedom, by Richard K. Moore. 1st Books Library (2511 West 3rd St., Bloomington IN 47404), 2000, 252 pages.

A Loss of Freedom is a particularly appropriate book for the current period. It is a novel set in the First World War, a time similar to ours with government-promoted attacks on civil liberties and encouragement of vigilante activity against "enemies" and their sympathizers as well as dissidents.

The hero is an idealistic young fruit farmer in Fresno, Calif., whose brother is an IWW and whose girlfriend comes from a German-American family. They are persecuted, his brother murdered and a brother of the girlfriend shot while their father is imprisoned until he agrees to buy a \$100 "Liberty" Bond. Other acquaintances – socialists, pacifists, ordinary folks insisting upon their freedom – similarly find themselves attacked.

In this first volume of a proposed trilogy Moore shows himself well-acquainted with the period. Apart from a handful of anachronisms, the story rings true to its time. The plot is a little on the soap opera side and the hero often seems excessively naive, but generally the writing is effective. I would have liked to see the Wobbly brother character developed more fully and be somewhat less fatuous. These minor flaws notwithstanding, it is a good book and I look forward to the next two volumes.

The publisher produces "virtual" books that can be accessed at www.1stbooks.com or they can print a copy in a traditional binding.



Trampfest 2002

BY RON KAMINKOW

Freight train riders (hoboes, tramps, etc.) converged on LaCrosse, Wisc., a small midwestern railroad city, for Trampfest 2002 in mid-August. Billed as "three powerful days of celebration, comradery and reunion," folks actually began arriving the previous weekend, the crowd building through the week as riders dropped off the trains and found their way to the jungle camp on the banks of the mighty Mississippi.

We had a lively sing-along with local musicians and voices Thursday night. Captain Stringbean and Otis Gibbs played music in the park Friday afternoon, and later that night Stringbean gave a fierce blues performance at the Nighthawks Tap. These events were a big hit with the townsfolk, who were amazingly hospitable toward their scruffy guests.

These activities may have been partially responsible for the police treating us with kid gloves for most of the week. We were largely ignored until Saturday evening, when police ordered us to leave within the hour.

After much discussion, we packed up our gear and marched through the streets singing 'Hallelujah, I'm a Bum!' and "This Land Is Your Land" to the hall where the tramp video documentary "Catching Out" was screening. We marched up the steps and into the hall where we were greeted by a crowd of cheering townspeople. It was an electrifying moment.

Everyone agreed that this year's Trampfest was a success and that we will do another one next summer. All y'all who are interested in next year's Trampfest, please email Baltimore Red at baltimorered1@yahoo.com. or write P.O. Box 3010, Madison WI 53704.

SBC layoffs result of mismanagement

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

SBC, the acronym for Southwestern Bell Communications, announced plans recently to fire up to 600 employees. Officials with the Communications Workers of America, which represents many of the employees, accuses management of firing workers to correct executive bookkeeping incompetence.

A recent business strategy highlighted by the wave of corporate scandals has been that of using worker layoffs to recoup money that was lost through business chicanery workers had no part in. Worldcom laid off thousands of workers after it admitted it cooked the books to inflate profits for investors. Similarly, Tyco laid off hundreds of union

members after it was revealed CEO Dennis Koszowski had appropriated company funds to finance his own lavish lifestyle, which included sprawling mansions, and, famously, a \$6000 shower curtain.

SBC has posted earnings warnings as well, but the CWA says the company could save money by getting "rid of a satellite GPS system that tracks the location of service technicians," the October 10 *Hartford-Courant* reports. CWA members claim the Global Positioning Satellite is a creepy, Orwellian system used to check up on the whereabouts of field technicians and that it has no practical use outside of this. Layoffs announced by SBC would affect mostly Texas workers.

U Mass walk-outs protest budget cuts

Faculty and staff at the University of Massachusetts's five campuses and the state's other 19 colleges walked out Sept. 5 to protest deep cuts in higher education funding, including the cancellation of negotiated pay hikes. U Mass campuses came to a standstill as workers took a half hour "break."

The dispute has breathed new life into efforts to form a university-wide labor coalition. On Sept. 25, the U Mass Student Union Ballroom was packed for a meeting protesting the university's \$28.5 million budget cut, which was supported by administrators. Hundreds of faculty and staff have been forced into early retirement to help close the budget gap, and few of those vacancies are

being filled. Buildings at the University's Boston campus are literally crumbling after years of deferred maintenance.

The Sept. 25 meeting was the first time that all six unions on the Amherst campus held an all-union meeting. Professors and secretaries linked voices in chants of "Fund the Contracts" with the same graduate students that TA their departments' classes.

Unions are demanding that administrators open the books, and draw upon their off-budget slush funds to fund the contract. Some workers have suggested that administrators give up their six-figure salaries. And all are agreed on the need for more statewide actions, and to build a movement that brings together students, faculty and staff.

California teachers fed. opposes war on Iraq

The California Federation of Teachers approved a resolution Sept. 21 "urg[ing] members and affiliates to get involved with organizations working toward stopping the Bush administration's march toward war with Iraq." The resolution notes that "a war with Iraq would require the re-direction of vital resources and funds to a destructive, senseless, and illegal goal while further strengthening an administration that has restricted the civil liberties of its citizens," and protests the administration's use of "the so-called 'War on Terrorism' to distract the American people from the vital issues they confront."



SACCO & VANZETTI

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OF THEIR DEATHS

Never to forget their
judicial murders... Always to
remember the lives they led

— Raymond Solomon

The "Liberal" chopping block

Thousands of demonstrators gathered in front of the British Columbia legislature Oct. 7 to register their opposition to cold-hearted Liberal policies, which have put 12,000 government jobs on the chopping block and hurt many of the poorest and most vulnerable citizens in the province.

An effigy of the premier was burned during the demonstration by students, seniors, activists and union leaders upset at health-care cuts, hospital closures, soaring tuition fees and the sale of government assets and services through privatization to friends of the government.

The Castlegar Citizen

Eight employees of the *Castlegar Sun*, in Castlegar, B.C., have been on strike since Nov. 4, 1999. The strike began over a difference of 10 cents per hour. In Spring 2000, the strikers decided to show the company that they were serious newspaper workers, and launched the *Castlegar Citizen*. The community of Castlegar has stood behind these workers, taking out advertising and refusing to read the company's newspaper. Since then Sterling has refused to return to the bargaining table and has had to close the *Castlegar Sun* offices and cease publication.

Info tech workers web site

The Communications Workers of America has created a new web site – www.techsunite.org – to provide a forum for information and discussion of information technology, job and training opportunities, and legal rights for freelance, temporary and contract workers.

IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

A donation was received in the name of Dr. Mark Sawyer for the **Charlene J. Sato Fund**

The Sato Fund commemorates the life and work of Charlie Sato, a founding member of the O'ahu GMB and a tireless fighter for the rights of working people until her untimely death (at age 44) in 1996.

Grants from the fund help women members of the Industrial Workers of the World attend organizer trainings and the IWW's annual Assembly. For information on donating to the fund or applying for a grant, please contact Mike Long through the IWW's General Headquarters.

BOOKS FOR REBEL WORKERS



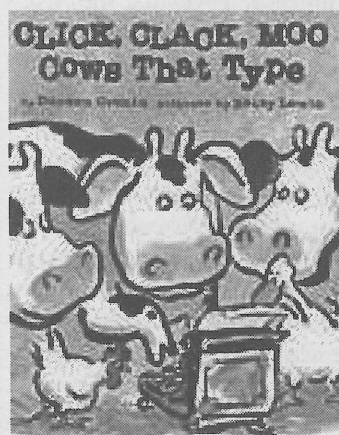
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by Doreen Cronin

with illustrations by Betsy Lewin

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better working conditions...and then they stage a strike, engaging in concerted activity with the chickens. Doreen Cronin's understated text and Betsy Lewin's expressive illustrations make the most of this hilarious situation. Join the fun as Farmer Brown's savvy – and literate – cows turn his farm upside down! **Recommend Age Range: 3 to 8 \$15.95**

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Workers Against War

The Wobblies at War: A History of the IWW and the Great War in

Australia by Frank Cain

The Australian IWW, which got started in 1907 to bring the flag of "One Big Unionism" down-under, was a major force in opposing Australia's involvement in World War I. So efficient was its Anti-War campaign, which opposed conscription, blind nationalism, and the thirst for blood of the employing class all over the world, the Australian government banned the union in 1916, and attempted to drive the organization into the ground in 1917 by deporting prominent leaders.

300 pp. \$16.00

Labor History

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher A classic text – a history of American workers' struggle from a working-class viewpoint, arguing that class upsurges are based in everyday life and rank-and-file initiative. While this edition is somewhat less optimistic than the original, it still provides rich detail of workers' rebellions throughout American history, and abundant evidence for the proposition that workers are fully capable of making our own history, should we set our minds to the task. **\$22.00**

The CIO's Left-Led Unions

Edited by Steven Rosswurm. In 1949 and 1950 the CIO expelled several left-wing unions. This collection explores the history of eleven of these unions, addressing the role of race and government policy in shaping unionism, the impact of anti-communism on race relations and working conditions, and the impact of the expulsions on the labor movement. Several of these provided an important counterpoint to more bureaucratic tendencies. **\$10.00**

Where the Fraser River Flows

The Industrial Workers of the World in British Columbia



Mark Leier

When the Fraser River Flows: The IWW in British Columbia

by Mark Leier. This history of the IWW in BC focuses on the Free Speech Fights of 1909 and 1912 and IWW organizing

in the timber fields, demonstrating that the Wobblies were fighting not just the bosses and the government, but also more conservative elements in the labor and socialist movements. A lively read, Leier also offers a sympathetic discussion of IWW ideas and tactics. The larger history of IWW organizing in Canada remains undercovered, but this book is an important contribution. **\$15.00**

IWW Literature

Little Red Songbook 36th Edition

103 labor songs to fan the flames of discontent from around the world, with music. Includes songs by Joe Hill, Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Utah Phillips, and more. **\$10.00**

One Big Union An introduction to the structure, methods and goals of the Industrial Workers of the World. **\$2.00**

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Organizing Help

A Troublemaker's Handbook: How to Fight Back Where You Work and Win! by Dan La Botz. An encyclopedic work on worker initiative and organizing on the job. Shows that sitdown strikes still aren't dead and immigrant workers can be organized. **262pp \$17.00**

The New Rank and File

by Staughton and Alice Lynd

With this inspiring collection of interviews with working class organizers from many facets of the international labor movement, the Lynds demonstrate the type of grassroots approach that we need if we are to build the strength to win against a global, wealthy and well-armed foe. Directed at two groups – rank-and-file workers and young people entering the labor movement – this book directly takes on the ideology of business unionism and offers hope and ideas for democratic, solidarity unionism. **262pp \$16.00**

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Coke union-busting

The Guatemalan Coca Cola workers' union STECSA has fought for 27 years to win decent working conditions, paying a heavy price in the late 1970s when several union activists were brutally murdered.

In 1998 when PANAMCO (anchor bottler for Venezuela, Mexico and Central America of Coca Cola soft drink products) took control of the Guatemala City bottling plant, the union started to have problems. The company is trying to fire eight union leaders and has gone to court trying to block the union from striking over the issue.

In another intimidation tactic, on Sept. 19, Coca-Cola lawyers threatened to sue STECSA for using the Coke logo in a sticker defending the right to strike. Coke is claiming violation of intellectual property rights.

PANAMCO is demanding concessions in union rights, health and safety protections, and other benefits at the bargaining table. Coca-Cola owns about a fourth of its stock.

In Colombia, the SINALTRAINAL union is suing PANAMCO and Coca-Cola alleging that local management has used paramilitary death squads to crush Coca-Cola unions.

Please contact Coca-Cola to demand that the company take responsibility for the conduct of its bottlers and respect worker rights: Douglas Daft, CEO, One Coca-Cola Plaza, Atlanta GA 30313. Fax: 404-515-7099.

Mine guards kill 2

East Rand Proprietary Mines security guards killed two workers and wounded 14 Oct. 7 when guards opened fire on miners.

Some 4,000 contract miners were terminated by the mine's new management, Durban Roodepoort Deep. DRD sacked workers after they joined a general strike against privatization called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Zimbabwe union leader tortured

Zimbabwean police tortured the leader of a teachers' union, after arresting him for his role in calling a strike demanding a 100 percent wage hike.

Raymond Majongwe's injuries were so severe that he was unable to sit on his own, and his attorney was seeking urgent medical attention Oct. 10. Police are holding him under the controversial new Public Order and Security Act, claiming he and other union leaders visited schools to encourage teachers to strike.

The Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe struck Oct. 8, in response to an inflation rate running at 135 percent. Teachers in Zimbabwe are the lowest paid in the Southern African region. The strike was rejected by the larger Zimbabwe National Teachers' Association.

Locked-out U.S. workers in Taiwan to picket their boss

Hundreds of labor and environmental activists from 16 countries recently picketed the Taiwan Cement Corp building in Taipei to urge the parent Koo's Group to resolve a dispute at one of its Continental Carbon Co. subsidiary plants in the United States.

Continental Carbon locked out 86 members of the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers Union last year. The company is also facing lawsuits for violating local environmental standards and contaminating local water supplies at its Ponca City, Oklahoma, plant.

In March, locked-out workers were joined by the Taiwan Confederation of Trade Unions at an action urging Taiwan Cement to settle the dispute. In October representatives of several Asian Pacific union joined U.S. workers in picketing the plant. Also picketing were members of the TCTU, the Taiwan Petroleum Worker's Union, unions from the Tatung Co and the Taiwan Power Co, and local environmental groups.



No Sweatshops Bucco solidarity with Bangladeshi workers

No Sweatshops Bucco activists leafleted PNC Park Sept. 22, in their sixth and final action for the 2002 baseball season. Some 3,500 leaflets were distributed in solidarity with Bangladeshi garment workers, noting that Pittsburgh Pirate gear (like other Major League Baseball merchandise) is made in sweatshops in Bangladesh, among other countries.

The leaflets called attention to MLB contracts with American Quality Headwear, Nike, Puma and Annco, all of which produce in Bangladesh where garment workers are paid 18 cents an hour and labor costs make up only 0.2 percent of the products being sold in the Pirate Gear Shop.

The leaflets also reprinted workers' demands: one day off per week with no cut in pay; an end to forced overtime, and especially 20-hour all-night shifts; an end to physical intimidation; a guarantee of legally mandated maternity leave and other benefits; and respect for workers' right to organize.

The Bangladesh Workers Unity Council suspended a planned general strike Sept. 1 after the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association reached a nine-point agreement that Association members would respect labor law, grant holidays, pay overtime in factories not doing so, allow unions to organize, establish a grievance procedure, and begin the process of setting a new industry minimum wage. (Wages have been since 1994.) However, previous agreements have not been implemented on the shop floor in many of the country's 3,300 garment factories, employing 1.6 million workers.

Spanish unions say no to labor reforms

BY MANUEL FERNÁNDEZ

Around 2,000 workers marched through Madrid Oct. 3, behind a banner calling on workers to continue the struggle against labor "reforms." Banners called for a renewed general strike, a 35-hour work week, and outright refusal of the reforms (rather than negotiations over their specifics).

The march was called by the syndical organizations CNT, CGT, Solidaridad Obrera and Coordinadora Sindical de Madrid. Red and black flags floated above the boisterous crowd as it marched through the city center.

Anti-worker priest canonized by pope

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

On October 6, Pope John Paul II canonized the Catholic priest Jose Maria Escriva as a "saint" before a crowd of some 300,000.

Escriva was a supporter of General Franco during the Spanish Revolution of 1936-39. In 1928 Escriva founded Opus Dei, a conservative Catholic group. "Opus Dei became prominent during the Spanish Civil War," the UK *Independent* reports, and "Escriva became identified with General Franco. He remained influential in Spain until Franco's death, and OD provided many ministers for the government."

The Independent also notes that Opus Dei has up to 80,000 followers to this day, as well as "members in senior Vatican positions, including the Pope's formidable press officer, Joaquin Navarro-Vallis." Escriva's canonization is the quickest on record, coming only 27 years after his death.

Many IWW members fought on the front lines against Franco during the Spanish Revolution, fighting against a coalition of big business, fascism and the church. During the 1930s, the IWW's *One Big Union Monthly* magazine published reports from Wobblies engaged in this war, which drew thousands of international participants to the side of the Spanish working class.

Rubbermaid plant seized

Rubbermaid-owned Newell Window Fashion's foundry in Negrepelisse, France, specializes in making window furnishings such as blinds.

Rubbermaid bought the Newell plants in January 2000; and recently announced plans to close plants in Negrepelisse and Ablis, offering the legal minimum in redundancy payments of 6 days for each year worked in the factory.

The CNT-AIT has been organizing the Negrepelisse plant's 33 workers, and organized a community anti-shutdown committee Sept. 20. The closure would hit the small village quite hard, and villagers blockaded the plant Sept. 23 - 25, after which the company agreed to negotiations. As we go to press, workers have occupied the factory.

Malaysian activists jailed

Several Malaysian activists, including Tian Chua, director of the Labour Resource Centre, have been fighting their unfair imprisonment since April 2001. They are being held without trial, under the Internal Security Act. The Malaysian Federal Court ruled in September that the police-enforced detention of the five leaders was unlawful, but they have not been released. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM), which has been campaigning to abolish the ISA, continues to fight for their release, and Amnesty International has declared the detainees prisoners of conscience.

Light House settlement

On Sept. 16, 24 workers won a long fight and returned to their jobs at the Light House plant in Thailand, a subcontractor of U.S. luggage giant Samsonite.

Their reinstatement is part of a settlement reached after months of struggle on the part of the Light House union beginning in October 2001 with the dismissal of 600 workers.

Although Light House agreed to reinstate all 73 remaining dismissed workers, because of the long struggle only 24 were still able to accept their hard-won return to the factory.

Italian general strike against war

The Italian Syndicalist Union (USI-AIT) has called a general strike for Oct. 18: "Into the streets against the war, to defend liberty, justice and the rights of all..."

"Only with the general strike and the struggle of all can be constructed a real union and social opposition in our country, that respects the desires and the needs of workers, of temporary and contingent labor, of the unemployed."

Strike demands include: opposition to the war, privatization, attacks on immigrants, and the government's attacks on social services and education; an end to outsourcing and precarious jobs; and shorter work hours.

"We have lost patience. Disobey."

Fiat workers fight lay-offs

Blocking roads from Sicily to Turin, Fiat workers around Italy staged rolling strikes Oct. 11 to protest plans to lay off nearly 20 percent of Fiat's work force. Fiat announced the cuts as part of efforts to encourage General Motors to buy the firm. GM already owns 20 percent of Fiat's auto division.

At Fiat's Termini Imerese plant in Sicily, where all 1,800 workers are slated to lose their jobs, workers blocked roads and railways. Rolling four-hour warning strikes hit Fiat operations in the rest of the country.

UK 'Labour' Party opposes right to strike

British officials have expressed strong opposition to European Union proposals to give legal status to the EU's charter of fundamental rights. Among the rights set forth in the charter is that of workers "to take collective action to defend their interests, including strike action."

"Labour Party" officials said they would be "very, very concerned" if workers could turn to the EU to protect their labor rights.

Cosatu to break from ANC?

The Congress of South African Trade Unions is considering "disaffiliation" from the ANC-led tripartite alliance following its third "political" strike in as many years - called to protest job cuts and the ANC government's privatisation policy.

"We are at the crossroads," says Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi. "We will have to sit down as a union federation to decide what now, where we go from here."

Cosatu officially boycotted the ANC's October policy conference, angered by President Thabo Mbeki's flat refusal to change policy, and is also sitting out meetings of the government's working group on labour.

ANC officials are denouncing the union as "ultra-left" and demanding that it abandon its criticism of the government's neo-liberal policies. Replies Cosatu president Willie Madisha: "You may call us whatever you like... All we know is that we are ultra-hungry. If those who are ultra-rich do not respond to the people who put them in that position, there will be political instability in the country."

A motion led by the National Union of Metalworkers of SA, the Chemical & Industrial Workers' Union and the SA Municipal Workers' Union for Cosatu to break away from the ANC was defeated at Cosatu's 2000 national conference.

Labor fund creates jobs

A union initiative to create employment has created more than 2,600 jobs at community projects. The major South African union federations COSATU, the National Council of Trade Unions and the Federation of Unions (Fedusa) started the fund with workers contributing one day's wages.

Community projects that empower rural women and youth and develop skills receive preference. Funded projects include poultry farming, agricultural projects, brick making and sewing.